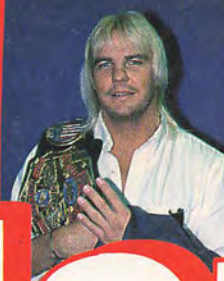




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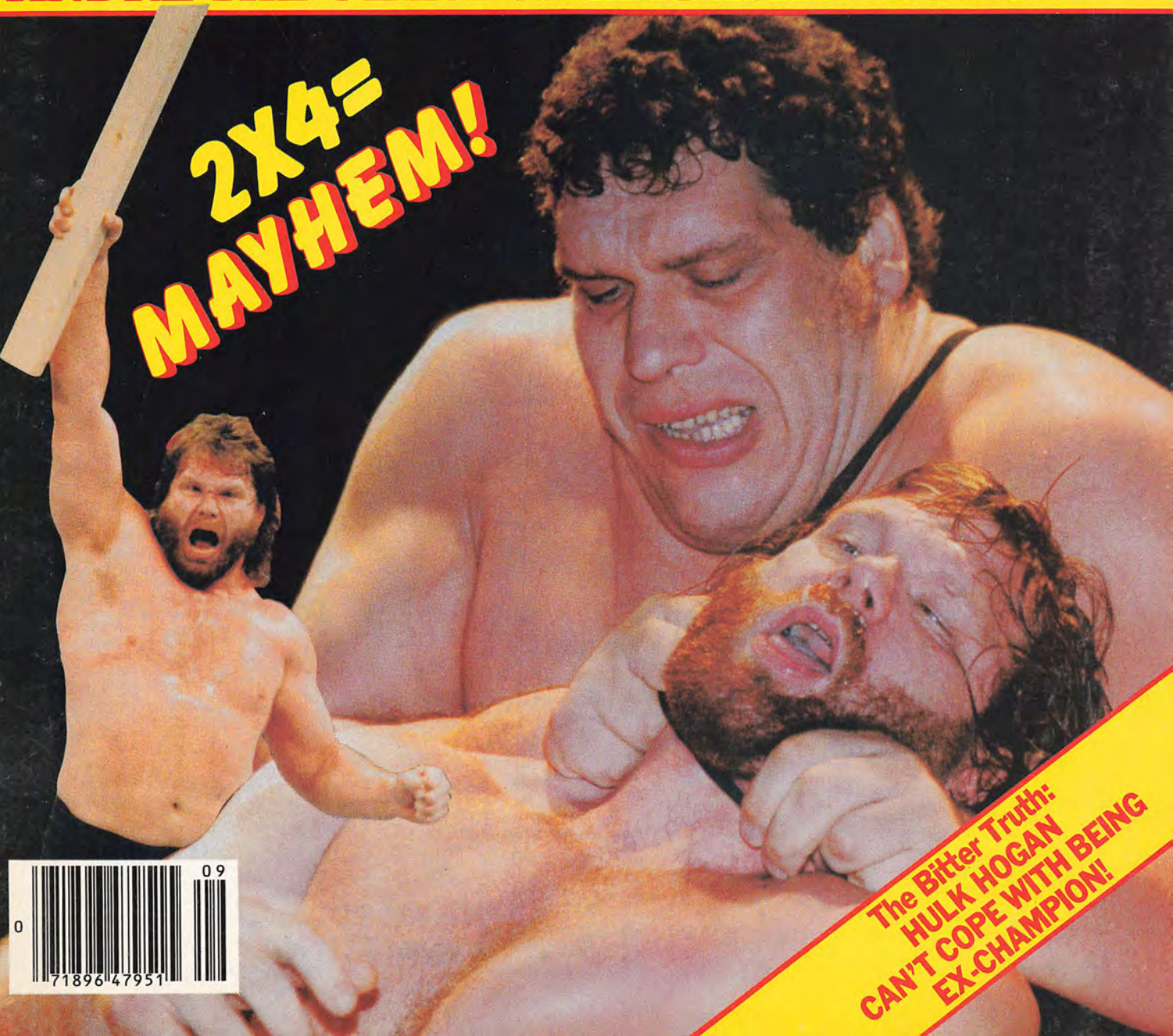
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THE **Wrestler**

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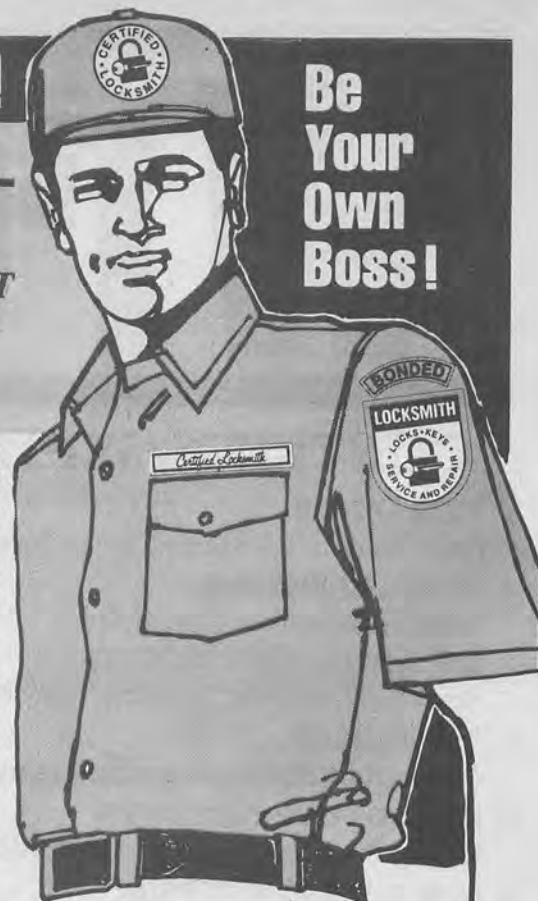
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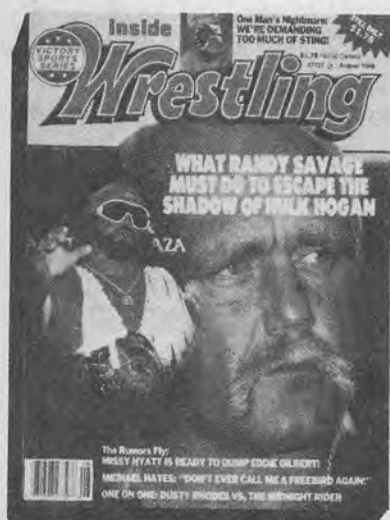
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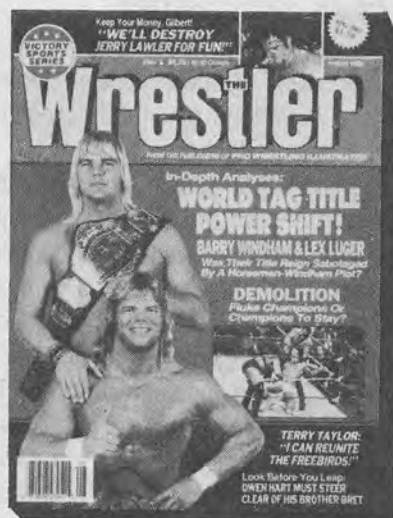
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YOUR LETTERS

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FREE ENTERPRISE

I am writing about a letter in your July 1988 issue, "Soviet Domination," written by Paul Lipson of Bathgate, Oklahoma.

I think that people from the Soviet Union should be allowed to come to America if they want to and make a name for themselves in wrestling. This is a free country, isn't it? I don't think they're hurting anything, anyway. They're just elevating the level of competition, and for that we all should be thankful.

So, Mr. Lipson, if you want to be selfish and ignorant, please do it somewhere else than in *The Wrestler*. Keep your eyes open because some of the best wrestlers in the business are from Russia.

KURT HIRSCH
Bethesda, MD

BAD JOURNALISM

When I saw the cover of your July issue, I thought the article entitled "Bad Company: The Team To Beat In '88" was going to be another example of unparalleled journalistic excellence.

Unfortunately, I was let down. Your article was about some ridiculous Calgary team and not, as I had assumed, about the only real Bad Com-



AWA World tag team champions Pat Tanaka and Paul Diamond are the *real* Bad Company of wrestling, writes reader Marc Allen.

pany, Paul Diamond and Pat Tanaka.

In fact, the *only* thing those Calgary bums share with the AWA World champions is their name. I've been watching the real Bad Company for a while now, and they combine aerial and scientific skills to the type of perfection not often seen in the AWA.

They are incredible athletes and superior wrestlers. The only knock on them is their useless manager Diamond Dallas Page. He does nothing

but attempt to steal the spotlight for himself and his scantily clad valet, the Diamond Doll.

Aside from that, however, Tanaka and Diamond are fantastic. You're right, Bad Company *is* the team to beat in 1988. The AWA's Bad Company, that is.

MARC ALLEN
St. Paul, MN

TEXAS TERROR

Listen, I've been watching wrestling almost my entire life and I want you to know that the World Class' Parade of Champions card this year was one of the best I've ever seen. There was enough action that night to fill five regular cards.

But the one thing, however, that I wanted to write about is the "turning" of Terry Gordy. If there's one person I've learned who just can't be trusted, it's Terry Gordy. Not only has he been a vicious rulebreaker almost his entire career, but the rare instances when he abandoned his rulebreaking only lasted a matter of days. This is true for all The Freebirds, even Michael Hayes.

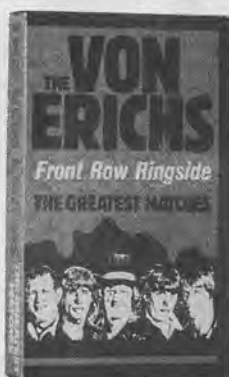
Remember when they joined the WWF as honest wrestlers? How long did that last? About two weeks! They

(Continued on page 52)



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- The entire May 6, 1984, bout in which Kerry Von Erich captured the NWA World title from Ric Flair at Texas Stadium in front of 43,518 fans.
- Highlights of Mike Von Erich's November 24, 1983, debut match against Gen. Skandor Akbar, and a battle against John Tatum.

• Rare footage of Chris Von Erich; Fritz vs. Joe Blanchard; David spanking Sunshine; six-man action featuring Mike, Lance, & Kevin, and David, Kevin, and Kerry; and Mike's hospitalization from toxic shock syndrome.

THE VON ERICHS: A FAMILY ALBUM is a magnificent history of the entire Von Erich family in words and pictures. Subtitled "Tragedies And Triumphs Of America's First Family Of Wrestling," the book chronicles Fritz, Doris, Kevin, David, Kerry, Mike, and Chris—plus rare photos of Jack—in over 100 black-and-white photographs and 32 pages of dazzling color photography. Many of these photos are from the Von Erich personal family scrapbooks (including many baby photos and school portraits) and have never been published anywhere—until now! This beautifully designed hardcover volume measures 8½x11 and is 128 pages in length. You'll be proud to add this to your personal library.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING!

By BILL APTER

THE INEVITABLE FEUD between U.S. champion **Barry Windham** and his former mentor, **Dusty Rhodes**, is well underway and figures to carry right through the summer series of Great American Bash cards. Rhodes is a former U.S. champion (in fact, Windham won the title that Rhodes was

stripped of) and hungers to regain the belt. But most important, Rhodes is angry that Windham decided to join **The Four Horsemen**.

"It's a slap in my face and the faces of all the fans out there that supported Barry for all these years," Rhodes said. "I nurtured him, I helped him, and I was be-

hind him all those times he fought **Ric Flair** for the World championship. Now he's *with* Flair. Baby, it's unbelievable."

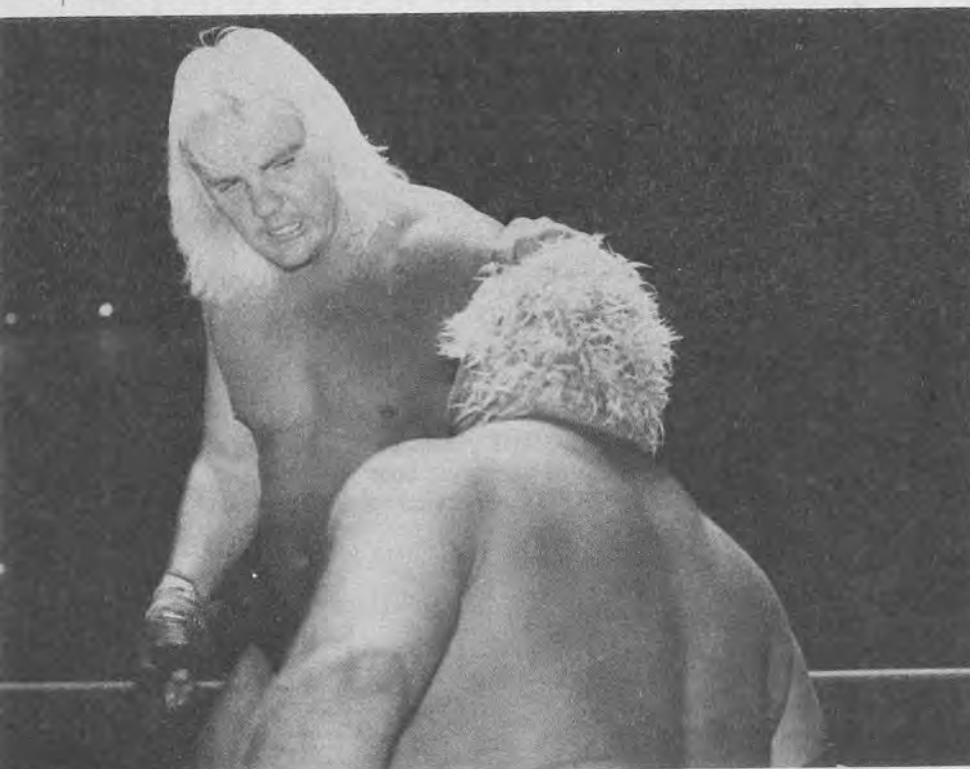
Windham, on the other hand, feels he owes Rhodes nothing. "I've seen what a selfish man Rhodes is," said Windham. "Look at him, he helped me and now he's throwing it back in my face. Well, if there's one reason I've never been World champion, it's because Rhodes taught me how to be a loser."

This is going to be one war to watch very closely in the months to come.

In an exclusive article in the October issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, **Paula Lawler** writes about the shocking changes her husband, AWA World champion **Jerry Lawler**, has undergone since winning the belt from **Curt Hennig** on May 9. But you don't have to be "The King's" wife to see that Lawler isn't the man he used to be.

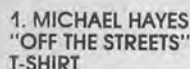
Although a fan favorite, Lawler always had a reputation for using roughhouse tactics. Since winning the belt, however, Lawler has taken his brutal style a step further.

(Continued on page 48)



Barry Windham sends Dusty Rhodes to his knees. Notice the glove on Windham's hand; it's a weapon he's been utilizing ever since he became the fourth Horsemen.

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New York, NY (Correspondent—George Carmichael): One of the big matches at Madison Square Garden pitted former WWF tag team champs Strike Force and the current champs Demolition. It was all Strike Force at the start as Rick Martel caught Smash in a Boston crab. Ax tried to save his partner, but Tito Santana blocked him.

Then Demolition took control. They beat Martel severely, but Rick somehow was able to tag out to Santana, who gave Smash a flying forearm. Ax then came in and started battling Mar-

tel. As the referee tried to break them up, Santana attempted to put the figure-four leglock on Smash, but Mr. Fuji ran in the ring and hit Santana with his cane. Smash then covered Santana for the pin.

In other bouts: Ted DiBiase beat Randy Savage by countout ... Ultimate Warrior defeated Hercules ... Sherri Martel beat Desiree Peterson ... One Man Gang beat Bam Bam Bigelow by DQ ... Bret Hart drew with Bad News Brown ... Brady Boone defeated Steve Lombardi ... Barry Horowitz beat Jose Luis Rivera.



Tito Santana and Rick Martel whip Ax across the ring. In their bout at Madison Square Garden, Demolition beat Strike Force, with the help of Mr. Fuji's cane.

Portland, OR (Correspondent—Jason Kettner): This card at the Sports Arena was in celebration of the 63rd anniversary of Don Owen Promotions. The main event pitted Tom Zenk against Pacific Northwest champion The Grappler.



The Grappler was able to retain his Pacific Northwest title after a tough contest with Tom Zenk in Portland, Oregon.

Zenk dominated the match at first, hitting his opponent with every move in his arsenal. The turning point came when Zenk had The Grappler pinned. The Grappler's protege, The Shogun, ran out to the ring to prevent the pin. Then Matt Borne ran in on behalf of Zenk, and it soon became total mayhem. The referee awarded the bout to Zenk on a disqualification, but the title didn't change hands.

(Continued on page 46)

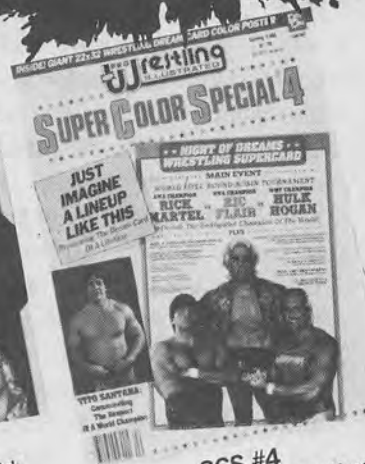
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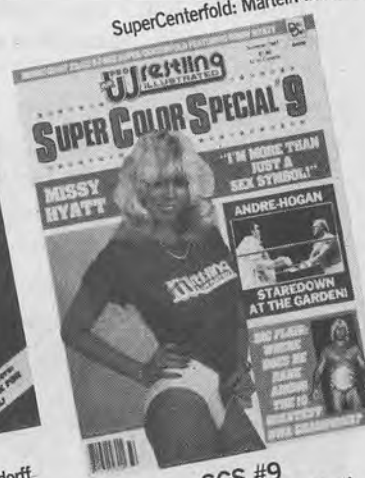
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GRAB BAG



SCS #4
SuperCenterfold: Martel/Flair/Hogan



SCS #9
SuperCenterfold: Missy Hyatt

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery

Q: "I have heard that Eddie Gilbert is leaving Memphis for Continental. I would like to ask him if that is true, and if it is, why?"—Jenny Wick, Trenton, NJ

A: "Ridiculous!" replied Gilbert. "These rumors! While it is true that I am going to wrestle in Continental, I am definitely *not* leaving Memphis. You see, Jenny, airplanes are a wonderful thing. I can wrestle in both federations! And I have to. I can't leave Memphis with a clear conscience until that pond scum Jerry Lawler is out of the game permanently. And it looks like I'm just the man to do it. Curt Hennig couldn't cripple him. Neither could any of my other bounty hunters. And now that Lawler is AWA champ, that gives me all the more incentive to disgrace him, take his belt, and leave him for dead. So, to answer your question, I categorically deny that I have left CWA for Continental. I'm so great that I can wrestle anywhere, anytime. Remember that!"

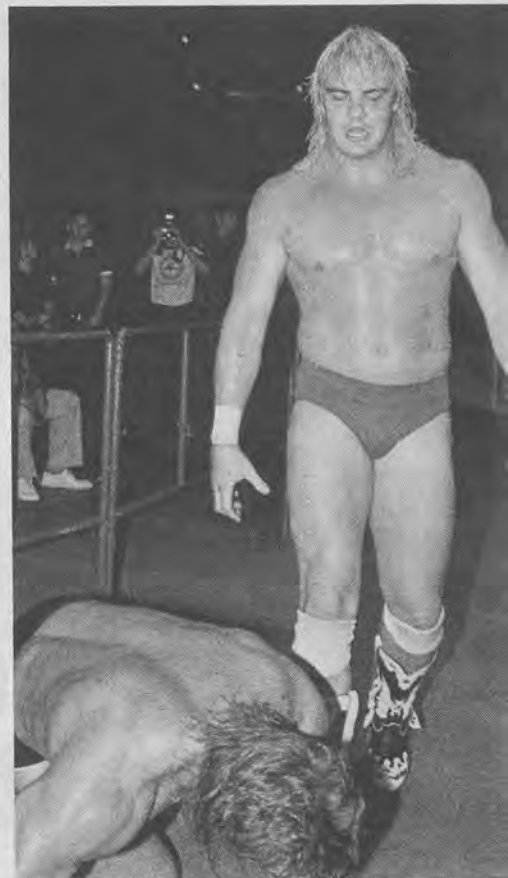
Q: "My question is for Barry Windham: I'm sure everyone wants to know how you could betray Lex Luger? There he was, using every ounce of strength left just to get to the ring apron, and you go and

YOU ASKED US

This is the monthly feature that answers **ALL** your most important questions about the mat sport, the stars, and the feuds. Send us your most perplexing queries and we'll have them answered for you by the world's finest grapplers and most insightful mat reporters. Address your questions to: **YOU ASKED US**, c/o **THE WRESTLER**, P.O. Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571.

attack him! Just what were you thinking?"—Kerry Skinner, Los Angeles

A: "First of all," Windham replied, "I don't have to justify myself to the fans. The only person I answer to is myself. But once and for all, let me explain the obvious. I was



Barry Windham goes after Lex Luger. Windham complains that Luger took all the credit for the success of their tag team. He says that's one of the reasons why he became a member of The Four Horsemen.

completely stifled by Lex Luger and his 'Total Ego Package.' Every interview, he did all the talking, and every match, I did all the work. It was getting so that I was being less and less a part of the most popular tag team. Lex actually believed that the fans were paying to see him and him only. And then there I was taking a beating from Tully and Arn. Where was Lex when I really needed him, the way he needed me when he left the Horsemen? Now I'm with the most elite group of wrestlers anywhere and I have no regrets at all. Reporters interview *me* after matches, women admire *my* body, and fans want *my* autograph. Finally, I'm getting what I deserve but could never get while teaming with Lex."

Q: "I have a question for Bruno Sammartino: Now that you've broken ties with the WWF, do you have
(Continued on page 44)



Eddie Gilbert covers Jerry Lawler for the pin as Missy Hyatt (background) looks on. Gilbert says that although he'll be spending a lot of his time in Continental, he won't abandon his dogged pursuit of Lawler.

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Thumbs Up

Each issue, *The Wrestler* will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.



Thumbs Up to Bobby Heenan. We never thought we'd see the day that "The Weasel" would try to *prevent* one of his wrestlers from hurting another person, but that's exactly what happened when Rick Rude got too rough with Jake Roberts' wife. When Mrs. Roberts refused Rude's advances and slapped him in the face, Rude grabbed her wrist, causing excruciating pain. But instead of encouraging Rude, Heenan tried to pull him away. Eventually, Jake ran out to save his wife, yet who knows what damage could have been done to her wrist and arm—or worse!—if not for Heenan?



Thumbs Up to Jerry Lawler. "The King" is the AWA World champion. It's about time! As hard as it is to believe, Lawler had never held a world heavy-weight title until May 9, when he defeated Curt Hennig in Memphis. That's nearly 18 years of greatness without ever reaching the most coveted goal of all. But Lawler has always been willing to pay the price of hard work and take whatever risks are necessary. It was worth the wait, and it's also good to see that Lawler is willing to take on the challenge of wrestlers from other federations, such as World Class champ Kerry Von Erich.



Thumbs Up to Terry Gordy. So, blood really *is* thicker than water. Faced with the task of giving in to the Angel of Death and cutting Michael Hayes' hair, Gordy backed off and came to the rescue of his friend. The Freebirds have been apart for nearly a year, but there are still very strong ties that bind them. Gordy proved to Hayes that, despite their differences, he can always depend on him. Considering this, it wouldn't be surprising to see Buddy Roberts join Gordy and Hayes. For better or worse, The Freebirds belong together. Now, they're a step closer to full reunion.



Thumbs Up to Capt. Lou Albano. Proving once again that charity begins in the wrestling ring, "The Captain" recently teamed with Triad Publications on *The Honeymooners* comic book (issue number seven) in which Albano guest-starred. A portion of the sales from the comic book went to the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation, of which Albano is national fundraising chairman. Now, Triad and Albano are working on *The Capt. Lou Albano* comic book, which should be out later this year. Once again, MS will be the benefactor. Bravo, Captain! Your devotion to charity is truly inspiring.

Thumbs Down



Thumbs Down to Jim Crockett. As NWA president, the buck stops at Crockett's desk. *He* is the one that must take the blame for the reinstatement of Dusty Rhodes. *He* is the one that didn't have the guts to make the 120-day suspension stick, although Crockett himself was attacked by a baseball bat-toting Rhodes. Did the NWA give in to box-office pressures? Rhodes is a major drawing card, and his absence had to hurt the gate, but rules are rules. Authority must be respected. A wrestler cannot attack an official and then parade around in a mask while under suspension. End of argument.



Thumbs Down to Curt Hennig. The former AWA World champion recently completed a long title reign when he lost to Jerry Lawler, but he certainly didn't go out gracefully. Hennig complained about the referee (Memphis native Jackie Fargo) and the location of the match (Memphis, Lawler's hometown), while never stopping to consider that once two wrestlers step foot in the ring, all that matters is ability and courage. Hennig, who *really* is a fine wrestler, could have used more of his energy wrestling instead of complaining. Now, he no longer has the belt. That's *his* fault, nobody else's.



Thumbs Down to The Honky Tonk Man. As the devilish rascal from Memphis draws closer to breaking the record for longest Intercontinental title reign ever, he seems to show more and more disregard for the rules. Recently at a WWF TV taping, Brutus Beefcake was being interviewed by Craig DeGeorge. Jimmy Hart appeared and began harassing Beefcake. Brutus was about to hit Hart when Honky Tonk snuck up from behind with his guitar and smashed it over Beefcake's head. There was no call for that. Hart didn't belong there in the first place, but Honky Tonk in particular should have stayed away.



Thumbs Down to Brickhouse Brown. *How* Brown "won" the CWA belt from Max Pain on May 23 is the whole story. Earlier in the evening, defending champ Pain wrestled in a "Renegade Rampage" bout against Scott Steiner. Five minutes into the match, Brown and The Cuban Assassins raided the ring and attacked Pain. Brown dove onto Pain's left leg several times, causing significant ligament damage and forcing Pain to forfeit his subsequent title defense against Brown. Is this any way to win a title? We think not. Brown should be ashamed of himself. □



THE Wrestler

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June 1975/Stories include: Andre, Muraco, Funk, Lawler.

August 1975/Stories include: Sammartino, Patterson, Stasiak, Rivera.

December 1975/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, McDaniel, Blackjacks.

February 1976/Stories include: Andre, Sammartino, Rhodes, Valentine.

July 1976/Stories include: Andre, Wrestling II, Inoki, Von Erich.

November 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Valentine, Mosca.

December 1976/Stories include: Von Erich, Mulligan, Brody, Funk.

January 1977/Stories include: Brody, Andre, Wrestling II, Mascaras.

February 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Jones, Funk, Von Raschke.

April 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Funk, Flair, Bockwinkel.

May 1977/Stories include: Mascaras, Valiants, Andersons, Sammartino.

June 1977/Stories include: Patera, Putski, Hernandez, McDaniel.

July 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Rocca, Mascaras.

October 1977/Stories include: Rhodes, Sammartino, Flair, Snuka.

November 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Slater, Mascaras, Snuka.

September 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Grahams, Andre, Mascaras.

October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Backlund, McDaniel, Race.

November 1978/Stories include: Flair, Andre, Ladd, Graham.

December 1978/Stories include: Brisco, Mulligan, Andre, Blanchard.

February 1979/Stories include: Ladd, Flair, Idol, Heenan.

May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Brody, Valiants, Race.

July 1979/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Sammartino, Andre.

August 1979/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Patera, Stevens, Superstar.

September 1979/Stories include: Superstar Gramham, Cyclone Negro, Greg Gagne, Mil Mascaras.

October 1979/Stories include: Flair, Valentine, Santana, Muraco.

December 1979/Stories include: Andre, Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras.

January 1980/Stories include: Race, Backlund, Snuka, Brisco.

February 1980/Stories include: Andre, Flair, DiBiase, Superstar.



MARCH 1980

March 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Andre.

April 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, DiBiase, Youngblood, Wrestling II.

May 1980/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Bockwinkel, Patera.

June 1980/Stories include: Backlund, Abdullah, Brisco, Flair.

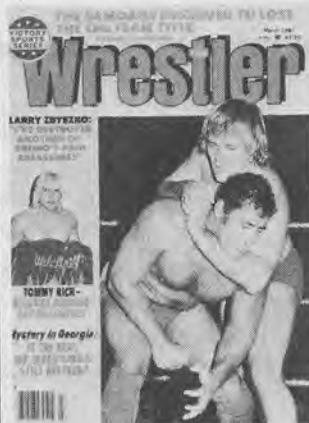
August 1980/Stories include: Valentine, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Albano.

September 1980/Stories include: Ladd, Patera, Steamboat, Gagne.

October 1980/Stories include: Patera, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Morales.

January 1981/Stories include: Valentine, Rhodes, Patera, Von Erich.

February 1981/Stories include: Zbyszko, Patera, Iron Sheik, Wrestling II.



MARCH 1981

March 1981/Stories include: Rich, Samoans, Blassie, Wrestling II.

May 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, DiBiase, Moondogs.

June 1981/Stories include: Sammartino, Piper, Rich, Martel.

July 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Flair, Atlas.

August 1981/Stories include: DiBiase, Slaughter, Martel, Idol.



OCTOBER 1981

October 1981/Stories include: Funks, Rhodes, Race, Sullivan.

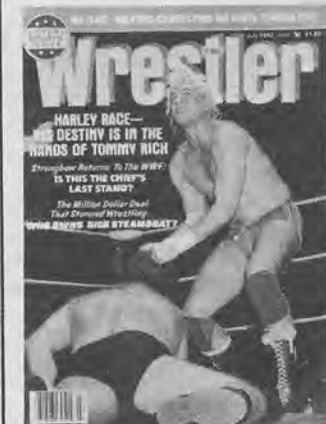
January 1982/Stories include: Rich, Steamboat, Sullivan, Sammartino.

March 1982/Stories include: Slaughter, Albano, Flair, Race.

April 1982/Stories include: Brisco, Armstrongs, Valentine, Santana.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Von Erich, Graham, Rich.

June 1982/Stories include: Steamboat, Reed, Albano, Piper.



JULY 1982

July 1982/Stories include: Rich, Sawyer, Flair, Steamboat.

August 1982/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Mulligans, Piper.

September 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, Armstrong, Blair.

October 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rhodes, Santana, Piper.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.

December 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

January 1983/Stories include: Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Backlund, Rich, Kamala.

April 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Tiger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy.

May 1983/Stories include: Samoans, Von Erich, Rhodes, Orndorff.

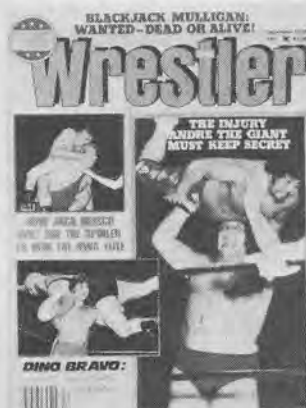
June 1983/Stories include: Windham, Martel, Brody, Andre.

July 1983/Stories include: Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbyszko.

August 1983/Stories include: Valentine, Blanchard, Windham, Street.

September 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Briscos.

October 1983/Stories include: Race, Sawyer, Briscos, Bass.



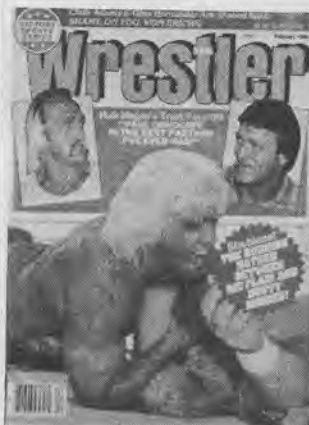
DECEMBER 1978



NOVEMBER 1983

November 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Von Erichs, Kabuki.
December 1983/Stories include: Mascaras, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbyszko.
January 1984/Stories include: Valentine, Hogan, Von Erich, Road Warriors.
March 1984/Stories include: Santana, Hogan, Von Erich, Sawyers.
April 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Rhodes.
May 1984/Stories include: Windham, Brody, Road Warriors, Junkyard Dog.
June 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Billy Jack, Flair, Armstrong.
July 1984/Stories include: Rich, Billy Jack, Valiant, Von Erich.
August 1984/Stories include: Garvin, Sullivan, Freebirds, Street.
September 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Piper, Steamboat, Billy Jack.
October 1984/Stories include: Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.
November 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.
December 1984/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.
January 1985/Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.
February 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.
March 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.

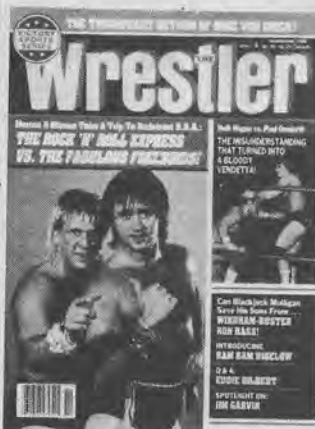
April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.
May 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Backlund, Santana, Rich.
June 1985/Stories include: Rhodes, Windham, Rich, Hogan.
July 1985/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Reed, Martel, Sunshine.
August 1985/BONUS 4-PG. COLOR SECTION! Plus: Warriors, Magnum T.A., Sheik & Volkoff, McGraw.
September 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.
October 1985/Stories include: Flair, Windham, Shultz, Martel.
November 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Zbyszko, R&R Express, Von Erichs.
December 1985/Stories include: Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmer.
January 1986/20th Anniversary Issue! 10 Greatest Wrestlers, Rhodes, Hogan, Sammartino.



FEBRUARY 1986

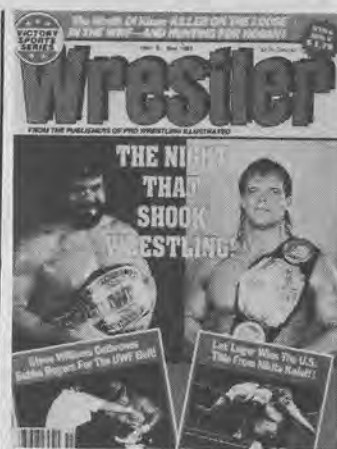
February 1986/Stories include: Hogan, Orndorff, Flair, Hansen.
March 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Duggan, Hansen-Martel.
April 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Rude, Lugar, Hogan, Magnum T.A.
May 1986/Stories include: Zbyszko, Von Erichs, Santana-Ventura, Hillbillies.
June 1986/Stories include: Lugar, Hernandez, Flair-Bockwinkel, Hogan, T.A.

July 1986/Stories include: King Kong Bundy, Koloff vs. Graham, Ric Flair.
August 1986/Stories include: Snuka, Bulldogs, Freebirds, Warriors, Duggan.
September 1986/Stories include: Fantastics, Adonis, Morton-Flair, Brody.
October 1986/Stories include: Nikita-Magnum, Nord, Bruno, Kerry, Windham.



NOVEMBER 1986

November 1986/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan-Orndorff, Von Erich.
December 1986/Stories include: Flair, Bockwinkel, Hogan, Gilbert, Nikita.
January 1987/Stories include: Heenan, Garvins, DiBiase, Borne & Sawyer.
February 1987/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Gordy, Steamboat-Roberts.
March 1987/Stories include: Windham, Nikita, Adias, Savage-Steamboat.
April 1987/Stories include: Hogan, Luger, Rich-Lawler, R&R Express.
May 1987/Stories include: Flair-Nikita, Andre-Hogan, UWF, Windham, Hennig.
June 1987/Stories include: Flair-Windham, Can-Ams, Rhodes-Murdoch.
July 1987/Stories include: Cornette, Hyatt, Luger, Harts, Adams, Hansen.
August 1987/Stories include: Can-Ams, Luger vs. Nikita, Fantastics, Koko, Nord.
September 1987/Stories include: Koloffs, Harts, Duggan, Hennig, Hart.
October 1987/Stories include: Savage-Honky Tonk, Horsemen, Patera, Kerry.



NOVEMBER 1987

November 1987/Stories include: Williams, Luger, Hogan-Khan, Rich.
December 1987/Stories include: Hogan, Windham, Lawler, Flair, Beefcake.
January 1988/Stories include: Nikita-Taylor, Warriors, DiBiase-Duggan.
February 1988/Stories include: Flair, Andre-Hogan, New Breed, Kerry.
March 1988/Stories include: Hogan, Luger-Sting, Calgary, Demolition.
April 1988/Special issue! Starcade '87, Survivor Series, AWA & World Class. Also: Strike Force, Luger, Rockers.
May 1988/Stories include: Horsemen, Hogan, Flair, Fantastics, DiBiase.
June 1988/Stories include: Sting-Flair, DiBiase, Kerry, Nikita, Zenk.
July 1988/Stories include: Fantastics, Hogan, Windham, McMahon, Rich.
August 1988/Stories include: Savage, Windham-Luger split, Demolition, Lawler, Ellering.

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INTRODUCING

MAX PAIN

Sporting unique, heavy-metal style makeup and a brutal ring style, newcomer Max Pain was immediately despised by the fans in the CWA. Now that he's started a campaign against Brickhouse Brown, Pain has become a pleasure to those same fans

WHEN MAX PAIN leaves his car and enters an arena, those seeing him might assume there is a heavy metal concert that evening. With his unique makeup, he looks like he could be the lead guitarist in a group like Motley Crue or Dokken. Teenagers flock around when they see him coming, but at 6'6" and 350 pounds, it's obvious this man is *not* a musician.

"Yeah, heavy metal is my favorite because it lets me work out all my frustrations and express myself," said Pain, currently a favorite in the CWA. "It's the same way I feel when I wrestle, so I decided to combine the two into something new, and I've been doing just fine. It's my *own* style."

That style has made quite an impression, earning him the two top CWA titles in less than six months in the federation. With Eddie Gilbert throwing fire at everyone in sight and Jerry Lawler winning the AWA World title, Pain had been overlooked, but he is quickly emerging as a major CWA force.

"I think I've crammed about five years of experience into these past few months," said Pain, who recently lost the CWA championship by forfeit to Brickhouse Brown because of an injury. "Some of it has been hard; some of it has been



Despite his weird demeanor and the bizarre markings on his face, Max Pain is a wrestler of considerable talent. Soon after entering the CWA, he won the CWA title and the tag team belts with Gary Young. Now that he's broken off his associations with Brother Ernest Angel and Brickhouse Brown, Pain hopes to progress even further.

easy. But I wouldn't trade it for anything else, especially those titles."

In addition to his size, remarkable speed, and natural power, Pain has an enviable athletic back-

ground. The Utah native is a former three-time All-American wrestler and a graduate of Iowa State University. An exceptionally talented amateur wrestler, he broke a

(Continued on page 20)

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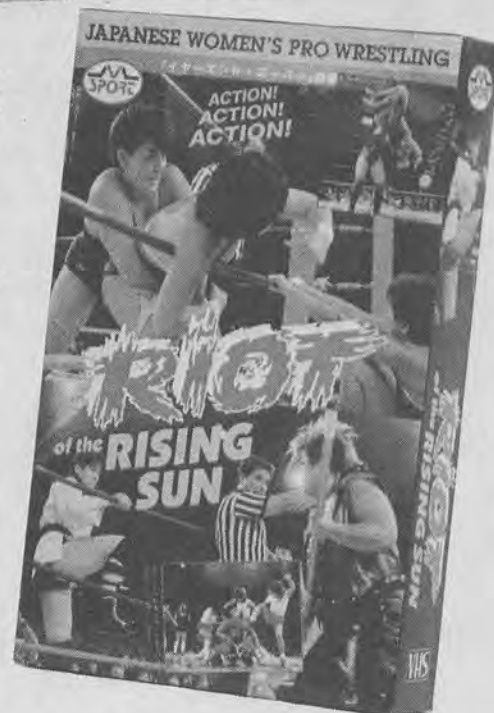
(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

- Wendi Richter & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Okumura
- Nancy Kumi vs. Lucy Kayama
- Monster Ripper & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Mimi Hagiwara
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- Masked You & Kaoru "Dump" Matsumoto vs. Lioness Asuka & Chigusa Nagayo—"The Crush Girls"
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Las Galactia
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. "Devil" Masami

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INTRODUCING

(Continued from page 18)



Pain elbowsmashes Mike Graham (above) and lifts him into a backbreaker (right). Pain was trained in Japan by the legendary Antonio Inoki, who taught him all the moves he needed to be successful.

longstanding NCAA pinning record, formerly held by the late Chris Taylor, a former Olympian and pro wrestler. Taylor's old record was four pins in 13 minutes; Pain eclipsed that mark with five pinfalls in just five minutes 32 seconds.

"Piece of cake," Pain says now. "I understand that Taylor is considered one of the all-time greats because of his accomplishments. I think it's a pretty big honor just to be mentioned in the same breath with a legend."

After his successful college career, Pain was anxious to get started in pro wrestling. His fast start can be attributed to the year he spent in Japan being trained by the great Antonio Inoki.

"What better teacher could a

young guy have than Inoki?" asks Pain. "He helped me perfect my second-rope splash, which is the finishing maneuver that has resulted in a lot of my victories. Suplexes, scoop slams, elbowsmashes—we worked on anything that would help me take advantage of my size. Inoki was there when I had my first match."

That pro debut was in January 1987, when Pain defeated Masa Chono in Japan.

"I beat him with a German suplex," he recalled. "Right then and there I knew I was ready for the U.S. rings."

Most fans wished he had stayed in Japan when he arrived in the CWA this past January. In February, he captured the CWA tag title with Gary Young; a week later, he

brutalized Jerry Lawler to capture the CWA championship. With friends like Young, Brother Ernest Angel, and Brickhouse Brown, he quickly became one of the most hated men in Memphis.

Recently, the fans' perception of Pain changed when he defended his CWA title against former AWA World champion Curt Hennig, who was being seconded by Brown.

"Brown was managing me," Pain said, "but he wasn't looking out for my best interests. He was gonna hand over my title to Hennig so Curt could get a rematch with Lawler for the AWA belt. No way! I had a big change of heart right there."



When the smoke cleared from the wild match, a new hero was being hailed in Memphis.

After only nine months in the CWA, Pain has established himself as one of the best of the new breed of young stars. And if he continues his winning ways, no one will confuse him with heavy-metal musicians anymore; people will see musicians entering arenas and think Max Pain is wrestling! □



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Q&A

Each month, *The Wrestler* will present a "Question and Answer" forum with an important figure in the wrestling world. It is your chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars as they answer the questions uppermost in the fans' minds

Q: *Ex-AWA champ Curt Hennig.* Somehow, it just doesn't have the right ring to it. I mean, you held the title for more than a year . . .

A: One year and seven days, to be exact. In fact, I am the best AWA champion of all time. I use the word "am" because there is very little doubt that I will pulverize that chump Lawler and regain my belt whenever he deigns to meet me. A true champion defends his title, as I so obviously proved during my first tenure.

Q: That's not what Lawler claims. He says that you consistently avoided top contenders, and that you only kept your belt through rulebreaking, disqualifications, and non-title matches.

A: Do you believe that, Rodriguez?

Q: I'm just an objective reporter.

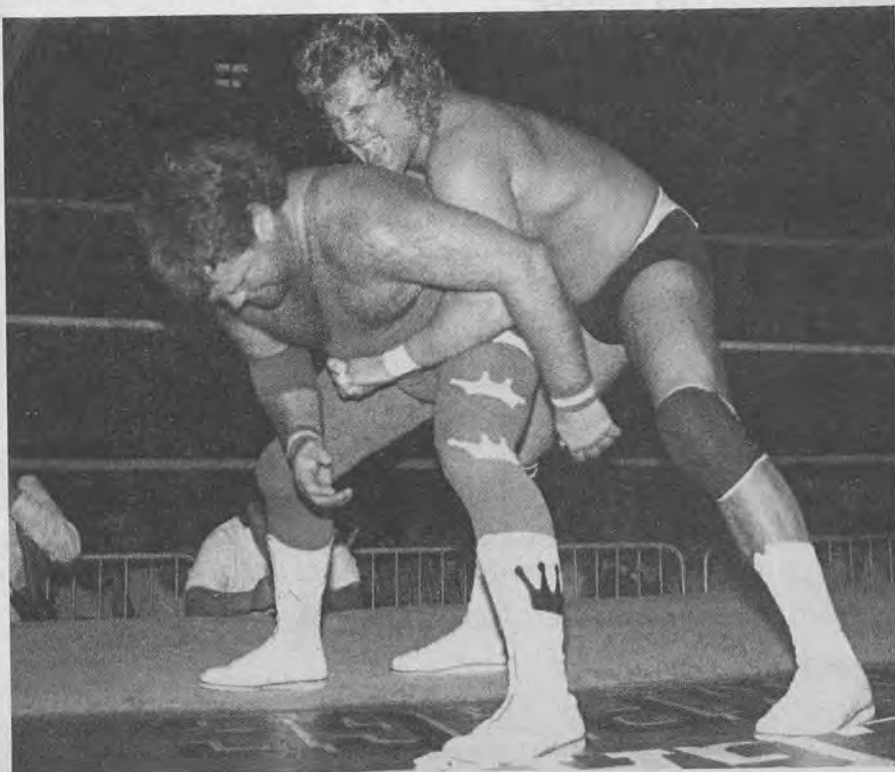
A: Objective, huh? Does that mean that you're trained to ignore the facts? Fact: I avoided *none* of the top contenders. Fact: I beat *all* of the top contenders, including "Queen" Lawler. Fact: I backed down from *no* challenge from *any* of the top contenders. Boy, did

they try to run me ragged. But I held the title for over one full year, Rodriguez. Anyone else ever do that, Mr. Reporter?

Q: As a matter of fact, many have. Now, getting back to *your* title. Since you no longer hold the AWA

belt, is there any other title you have your eyes on, perhaps Greg Gagne's AWA TV title?

A: Well, first of all, I need *my* title back. I can't even think of crippling Gagne until then. I asked Lawler for a rematch, and he refused. What a wimp! He keeps invoking some sort of CWA ruling that says in order for me to get a rematch for the AWA World belt, I had to first win the CWA belt. Have you ever heard of anything so ridiculous? His CWA cronies didn't stop Lawler from getting title shots at me when Max Pain was the CWA champ. That's blatant



CURT HENNIG



ACCORDING TO POET T.S. Eliot, April is the cruellest month. Considering how Curt Hennig spent his May, however, cruel ol' April may just have to take a backseat.

Hennig lost his AWA World title on May 8 to Jerry Lawler, but the loss seems to have only multiplied his arrogance. In interviews, he is still as abrasive as when he was champ; in the ring, his style is still characterized by a vicious level of scientific rulebreaking.

Hennig held the World title for just over a year and, in the opinion of most observers, was tireless in his defenses. But Lawler, who received several title matches against the champion, was unsatisfied with Hennig's record. He said Hennig was dodging top contenders—including himself. Hennig disputed the claim, and his match itinerary seemed to back him up.

These seeds of the Hennig/Lawler feud are only now beginning to be harvested now that Lawler has the AWA belt.

But there's no looking back for the proud and arrogant Hennig, and a lengthy feud with Lawler—with the World belt hanging in the balance—seems assured. We sent *Wrestler* Assistant Editor Andy Rodriguez to Hennig's home in Minneapolis to talk with the ex-champion.



Curt Hennig waistlocks Jerry Lawler (opposite page) and tells the Memphis crowd he's dominating their hero (above). Lawler came back to win the AWA World title, and Hennig is convinced he was ripped off.

favoritism and protectionism! And Lawler wonders why I'm, as he says, "a rulebreaker"? He tramples all over those rules more than anyone. So, just to get even, I decided that I'd play by Lawler's pathetic rules. I'll go down to Memphis and I'll beat that Max Pain. Then I'll get my title shot and beat Lawler. It'll be that simple.

Q: You sound like a man who won't accept defeat.

A: Why the hell should I, Rodriguez? Would you? Would you sit there and accept defeat if it came at the hands of a biased referee? You might, Rodriguez, but I *can't*. Look how Lawler *again* manipulated the rules to his side. Somehow he managed to influence AWA of-

ficials to allow a phone-in vote to pick the referee. Well, with the way Lawler has those Memphis fans hypnotized, I didn't have a snowball's shot in hell of getting my nominee picked. You know what happened. The fans picked Jackie Fargo, a longtime friend of Lawler's, over my choice, Larry Hennig.

Q: Your father. How impartial would that have been?

A: Very, but that's not the issue. Once I'd seen that Lawler was making a mockery of this whole phone-in thing, I had to try to tilt the scales of justice back in my direction. That turned out to be impossible, considering the way Lawler can manipulate the fans *and* the AWA

ruling board. What crap! I'll destroy him if it's the last thing I do.

Q: But certainly there are other men at whom you can target your aggression. Again, I mention the name Greg Gagne.

A: And again, I think you're an idiot, Rodriguez. What you obviously don't understand is that Gagne's TV title means nothing. The AWA World title, well, now *that's* a title. The nerve of Lawler for claiming I didn't defend it honorably. I was wrestling all over the place! I went to Portland to beat The Grappler. I went to Memphis to defend against Lawler. I fought Gagne in Minneapolis. I went to Vegas to get in a cage with Wahoo McDaniel. I even flew to Fargo, North



Lawler boomerangs Hennig into the ringpost (above). Moments later, Lawler covered him for the pin and won the title. Afterward, Hennig soothes his head with an icebag and ponders his future (right).



Dakota, to battle Baron Von Raschke. How's that for title defenses?

Q: Not all that impressive when you consider that you lost the last three matches you mention by pinfall. You only kept your belt because they were all non-title matches.

A: That's a ridiculous implication, Rodriguez. First of all, when you're the champion, everybody—even the lowest prelim bum—wants a title shot. A champion needs time to condition himself for his title defenses. So that's how I use these non-title affairs. I'm only in there for conditioning and training. Besides, who are *they* to complain? Here I am, giving them a free preview, as it were, of all the moves and holds I'm working on. All I ask in return is a sparring partner, if you will, because that's all these bums amount to anyway!

Q: I find it hard to believe that you're referring to men who pinned you as "sparring partners."

A: Well, you'd better start believing it, Rodriguez. And once I get that

CWA title, Lawler can dodge me no more.

Q: You sound like your anger toward Lawler is not just a result of mat action. Am I right?

A: Yes, and it's probably the first time today, Rodriguez. Lawler is the ultimate personification of pond scum. My anger toward him goes way back. During my title reign, he continued to call himself "The King," just as he has for years. Well, although now it's somewhat justified by the belt around his waist, before it was unnecessary showmanship. Besides, I even picked up Eddie Gilbert's challenge to put Lawler out of the game.

Q: In fact, you didn't even want to accept the \$25,000 Gilbert offered.

A: That's right. Not only did I refuse the money because I'm Eddie's friend, but also because accepting money invariably turns recreation into employment; crippling Lawler was definitely going to be recreation. I beat him, but I didn't put him out of the game. That pleasure will have to wait until our

next meeting.

Q: And then what?

A: Well, it's about time for me to silence a lot of my critics and enemies.

Q: Are you talking about Gagne?

A: Again with Gagne! Boy, you're a pain, Rodriguez, but this time you're right. I still have a lot of unfinished business with that wimp. You know, all his talk that I rely solely on my father for my success is just bull. Again, the hypocritical rantings of a man deprived of World title triumphs. Waging a negative campaign against me is not the way to win the belt. He should concentrate on his business rather than trying to butt in on mine. And he's just one of the people I'm after.

Q: Who else?

A: Well, there's that punk Scott Hall down in Continental. You know, we used to be quite a tag team, but I had to move on. Now I look back and I wonder what I saw in him as a partner. I hear he's challenging me. Well, let him chal-



Hennig drapes Greg Gagne's neck over the ropes. The ex-champion says his feud with the Gagnes is far from over, though getting the World belt back is his top priority.

lenge. He's no champion. Why should I waste my time?

Q: I guess the same is true regarding McDaniel and Von Raschke, huh?

A: Not exactly. I want to destroy both of those old men. Maybe you don't remember how much frustration I suffered when I set my mind on getting Nick Bockwinkel's title. Here was an old man—crafty, I'll grant you—who held me up for months. Every time I meet McDaniel and Von Raschke, I'm reminded of how long it took me to put away Bockwinkel, their graying compatriot. I will crush those old men and put them out of wrestling forever. Now that I mention it, I'll do the same with the entire decrepit federation!

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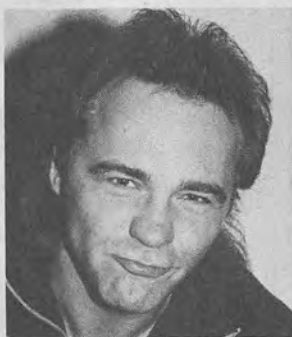
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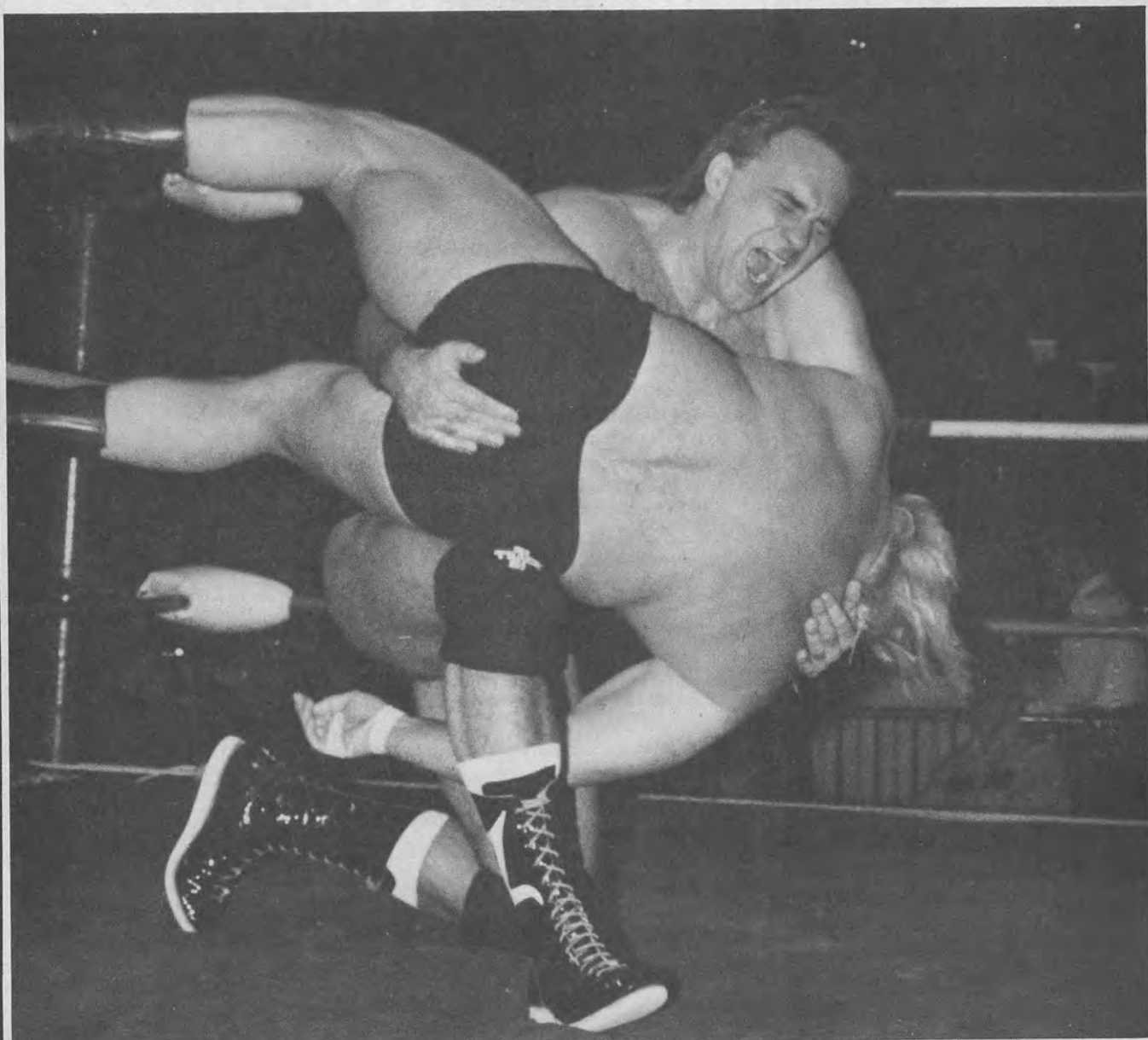
THE WRESTLER PANEL EXAMINES

RAY



**LARRY
ZBYSZKO**

Each month
THE WRESTLER'S panel of experts
will offer their candid opinions of one
of wrestling's stars. Whether an up-and-coming
youngster or an established superstar in his own right,
our panel will always be frank and honest without fear of reprisal



Larry Zbyszko, who for years has called himself "The Living Legend," executes a backbreaker on Kevin Sullivan. Ever since his controversial feud with Bruno Sammartino in 1980, Zbyszko has been a bitter competitor, intent on proving his self-professed greatness. Zbyszko's latest triumph was winning the Western States title from Barry Windham.



CAPT. LOU ALBANO

"When you talk about Larry Zbyszko, you're talking about one of the most evil men in the history of wrestling, daddy. He's the man who disgraced himself by turning against the legendary Bruno Sammartino years ago. He always brags about his '13 glorious years' in wrestling, but what has he ever done? He's won a couple of titles, but he's never been a world champion. It takes a *truly* great wrestler to do that, baby. Zbyszko's nothing but a conniving bum."

Capt. Lou Albano, long known as "The Guiding Light," has guided 13 tag teams to an unmatched 16 WWF World tag team titles.



LARRY HENNIG

"Finally you come up with someone who's worth talking about, but in the case of Larry, he's a wrestler worth *shouting* about. Larry advised my boy Curt when Curt beat ol' man Bockwinkel for the AWA World title. Zbyszko's not only got a classic wrestler's body, but he's one of the craftiest guys around. And he hates the fans the same way I do. He's one of the three greatest wrestlers in the world, after me and Curt, of course. God bless that wonderful boy."

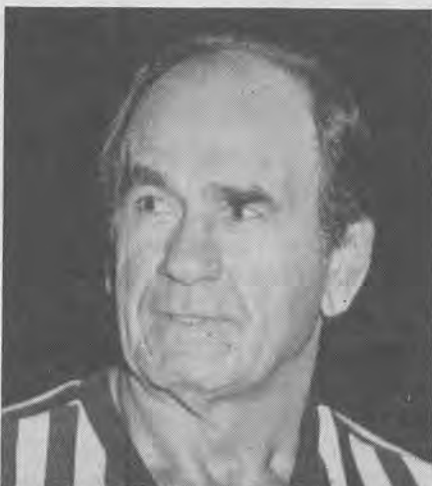
Larry "The Ax" Hennig is a four-time former AWA World tag team champion; he held three of those titles with Harley Race.



KILLER KOWALSKI

"Zbyszko calls himself the 'Living Legend,' and I think he makes a good point. He's the man who ended the careers of Bruno Sammartino and Nick Bockwinkel as far as I'm concerned, and that's quite an accomplishment. He's held the NWA Western States championship for a long time, and he's got the talented Gary Hart as his new manager. I think Zbyszko's on the verge of getting the recognition he's long overdue in receiving. He seems almost unbeatable."

Killer Kowalski, one of the most sadistic rulebreakers in the sport's history, runs a wrestling school in Reading, Massachusetts.



LOU THESZ

"Zbyszko was once a classic wrestler. He was someone who prided himself on knowing all the holds and counters. Since then, I don't know what's happened to his mind, but he's not the wrestler he once was. Now, he stalls and backs off in almost all his matches. He's lost his courage. He should consider becoming scientific again. He could do a lot of good, but instead he's hated by almost everyone he's ever come in contact with. It's a crying shame."

Lou Thesz held the NWA World title six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Many consider him the greatest all-round wrestler in history.



PROF. TORU TANAKA

"Zbyszko is very, very smart wrestler. He proved his brilliant mind by learning the fighting tactics of the Japanese masters a few years ago. He is an expert in the ancient Japanese art of the nunchakus, and he knows karate and kung fu. He is most fully disciplined of all the American wrestlers, because he knows that to defeat an opponent you have to overpower opponent's mind *and* body. Zbyszko is one of the few men who is *fully* respected by Tanaka."

Prof. Tanaka, a three-time co-holder of the WWF World tag team title with Mr. Fuji, is currently a successful actor.



JACK BRISCO

"I don't know why they allow people like Zbyszko to compete in wrestling. The most notable moments of his career are when he used weapons to win matches. He's never done an honorable thing in his life. He even tried to buy the NWA Georgia National title from Killer Brooks several years ago! As far as I'm concerned, he's just an opportunist, and a sadistic one at that. Larry Zbyszko is one of the biggest embarrassments ever to hit this great sport."

Jack Brisco is a two-time former NWA World champion, and a three-time former NWA World tag team champion with brother Jerry.

SPOT LIGHTS...

From time to time, *The Wrestler* will shine its spotlight on an outstanding wrestler, manager, or tag team. These are unforgettable highlights of the sport's greatest stars, compiled by the largest staff of editors and photographers in wrestling journalism

LEX LUGER

FROM THE MOMENT he made his professional debut, Lex Luger was looked upon as something special. The former USFL football player had all the tools for greatness: an outstanding physique, superb athletic ability, and a burning desire to win.

It didn't take long for Luger to prove himself as a pro. With Hiro Matsuda as his trainer, Luger won the now-defunct Southern title from Wahoo McDaniel on November 19, 1985—less than a month after his pro debut! He would win that belt twice more over an eight-month span, once each from Jesse Barr and Masked Superstar. Fans of Florida wrestling had never seen a more dominant rookie.

It was also in Florida that Luger began a quirky relationship with Barry Windham. They feuded at first, then became friends, forming a tag team that was far above the competition. Meanwhile, Luger took on Bob Roop as trainer and adviser, and wrestled several brilliant matches against NWA World champion Ric Flair.

After losing the Southern title to Kevin Sullivan in January 1987, Luger broke off his relationship with Roop and traveled to the NWA. Against the advice of his friend Windham, who had also moved there from Florida, Luger joined The Four Horsemen, first as an associate, then as a full member after Ole Anderson was kicked out of the group.

With top-flight wrestlers like Flair, Tully Blanchard, and Arn Anderson in



Lex Luger pummels Masked Superstar. In his first year as a pro, Luger won the Southern title three times. Superstar beat Luger but was only able to keep the belt away from him for a week.

his corner, plus the crafty management of J.J. Dillon, Luger became an even greater talent, winning the U.S. title from Nikita Koloff on July 11, 1987, at the Greensboro, North Carolina, Great American Bash. Luger, now calling himself "The Total Package," was flush with Horseman arrogance.

But his considerable ego received a blow when he lost the U.S. belt to Dusty Rhodes at Starrcade '87. Disturbed by Dillon's match strategy for that night, and by constantly bowing to Dillon's whims, Luger left the Horsemen, saying he wanted to fight his own battles on his own merits.

Reunited with Windham, Luger was bent on revenge. He got it at the Clash of the Champions on March 27, 1988,

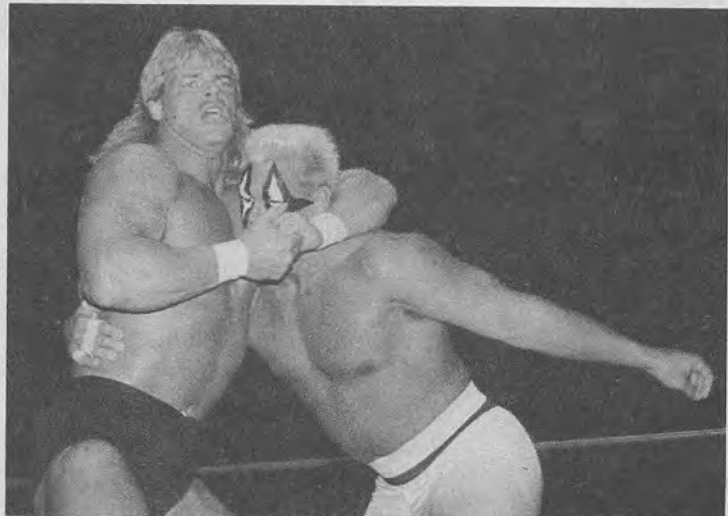
when he and Windham defeated Blanchard and Anderson for the NWA World tag team title. It looked as though "The Twin Towers" would follow through on the promise of tag team domination they first made in Florida.

Then disaster struck. Windham swiftly and shockingly turned against Luger during a tag title defense against Blanchard and Anderson. Not only did the Horsemen regain the belts, they gained a new partner in Windham. Luger had been betrayed.

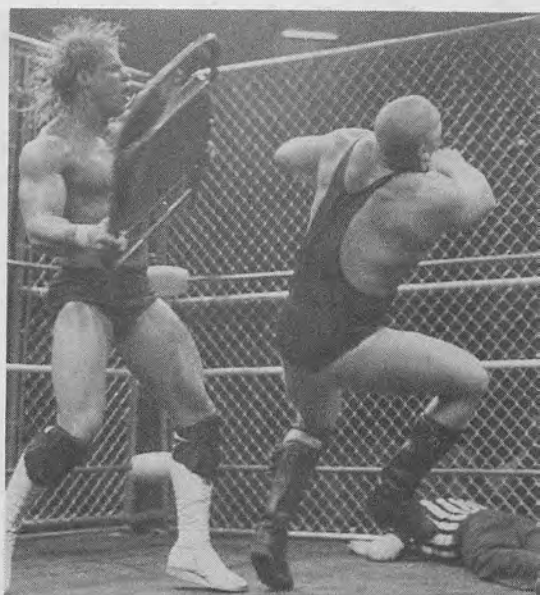
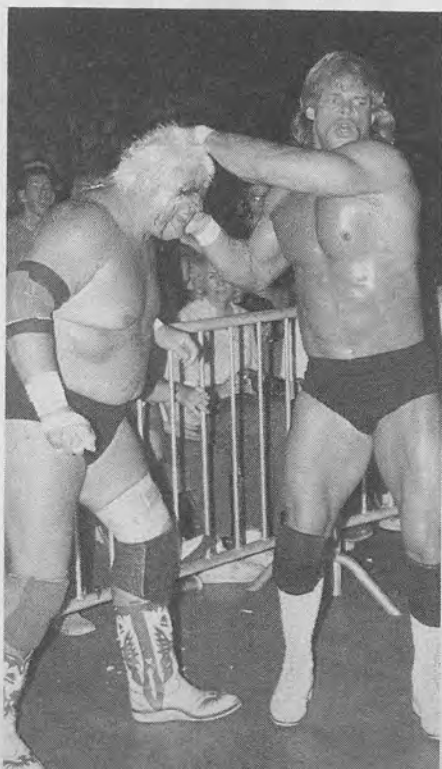
With all this current controversy in mind, *The Wrestler* felt it would be a good time to take a look back at the career of "The Total Package" and place the "Spotlight" on Lex Luger. □



Luger suplexes Jesse Barr (above); he won his second Southern title from Barr in 1986. Luger bearhugs Barry Windham in one of their first matches (right). "The Total Package" headlocks Sting (below); they're now friends battling against the Horsemen.



Arn Anderson and Luger whip Road Warrior Animal across the ring (above); Luger and Arn were once fellow Horsemen.



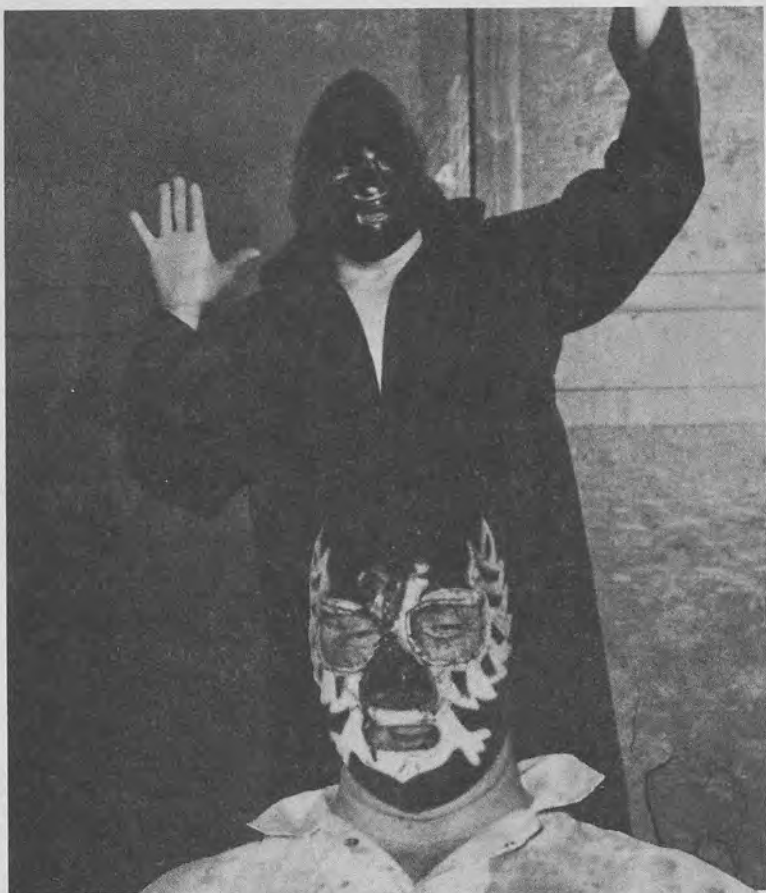
Luger throws Dusty Rhodes back in the ring (left). He smacks Nikita Koloff with a chair on his way to the U.S. title (above).

Once one of the most feared rulebreakers in the Stampede area, Jason the Terrible is now a beloved fan favorite. But forces that he cannot control have made his days in Calgary a living hell, and nobody knows who is behind this evil!

HAUNTED BY THOSE who choose to torment him, Jason the Terrible cannot rest peacefully. It is no longer the hideous scars on his face, caused by a gasoline explosion when he was a child, that make his life a living horror. The hockey goalie's mask he must always wear cannot disguise the mental anguish he goes through every moment of his life.

He knows who is trying to ruin his life. He knows who is controlling his mind and causing him unbearable pain. But Jason the Terrible has extreme trouble communicating, and therefore cannot let us know who is behind the plot to destroy him.

"This should be one of the happiest periods of his life," said Bruce Hart of Bad Company. "Ever since he was a young child, he's had to deal with his physical and psychological shortcomings, and that made him a violent person. But now people are finally cheering him on. The kids love him, but somebody won't leave him alone. Somebody



WHO'S BEHIND THE PLOT TO DESTROY JASON THE TERRIBLE?



Jason the Terrible leaps down on Johnny Smith (above). Does the evil Zodiac (opposite page top) control Jason's mind?

is trying to control his mind, and I have a pretty good idea who it is."

Is it Makhan Singh, Gama Singh, or "Strangler" Steve DiSalvo, all former teammates of Jason's in Karachi Vice? Or is it Zodiac, Jason's psychic master during his days as a villainous monster? Zodiac, a hooded madman, claims to be from hell and to "possess the power of the solar system." He is the only man who was able to fully communicate with Jason. Although Zodiac is no longer in Calgary, has he retained his psychic hold on this poor soul?

"I've managed to communicate a little with Jason," said Brian Pillman, Hart's partner in Bad Company, "and from what I can tell—and I know this sounds crazy—Zodiac still has the ability to reach with Jason by some sort of mental telepathy. People with this ability aren't affected by tremendous distances. This would explain why Jason still occasionally goes off the deep end."

Jason recently went "off the deep end" in Edmonton when he wrestled a chain match with DiSalvo. DiSalvo is the man who, for some reason, seems to bring out the instability in Jason most. Jason was disqualified for attacking and brutalizing the referee, forcing Stampede officials to suspend him. Moments later in the dressing room, Jason acted like a content pet. "He put his head on my shoulder and went to sleep," reported Pillman. "It's almost as if he didn't remember what he had just done."

Stampede area fans have already seen graphic examples of the influence Zodiac holds over Jason. During a taped "interview" with Jason, there were clear indications that someone is trying to control his mind. "It was the scariest thing I've ever seen," said Bruce Hart. "There were these noises that sounded like they were coming out of an echo chamber, and Jason's body went strangely rigid. There's obviously

(Continued on page 50)

Wrestling's Most Dangerous Match Ever:

Photos by Buddy Myers



World Class' Triple Dome of Terror match, held at Texas Stadium as part of the Parade of Champions card, was one of the most unusual wrestling contests ever held.

IT'S WITHOUT A doubt the strangest looking contraption you've ever seen in—or on—or around!—a wrestling ring.

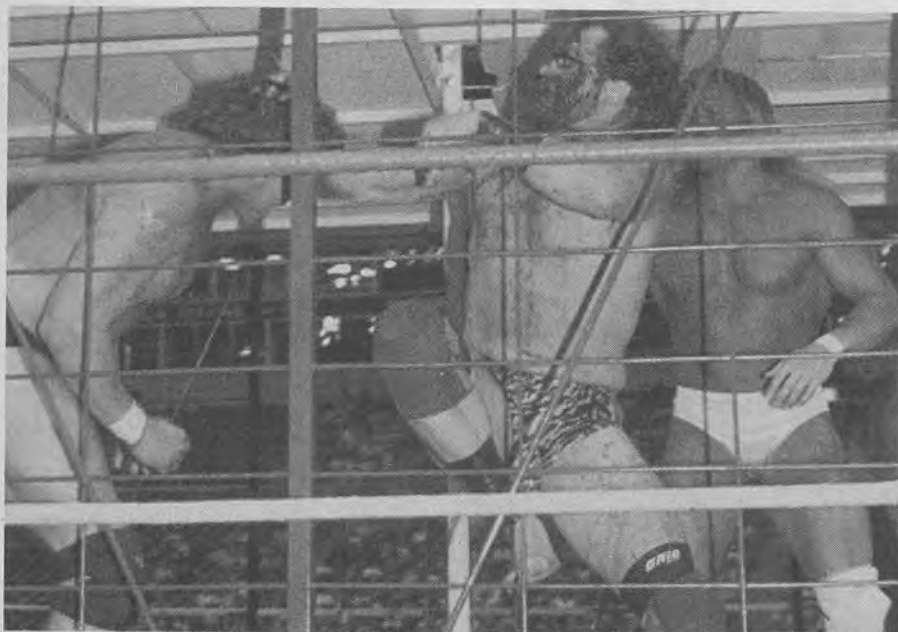
"It almost looks like a wedding cake," said World Class referee Rick Hazzard, "but without the smiling bride and groom on top." By the time a wrestler reaches the top of the Triple Dome of Terror, he's usually beaten and torn apart. Wrestling's most dangerous match is certainly no honeymoon.

"I got to the top and I looked down," said Steve Casey, who was the first man to reach the uppermost cage in The Texas Roundup, held at Texas Stadium in Dallas as part of the fifth annual Parade of Champions. "All I saw was a bunch of guys beating the heck out of each other and I said to myself, 'I survived that?' I'm glad I don't have to go back down there."

Below Casey were two more caged rings, connected only by a fireman's pole running through a hole cut in the middle of each. The three rings, which decreased in size from bottom to top, were placed on top of the standard wrestling ring. There were trap doors between each ring, but the doors to the outside were locked, allowing a wrestler no way out. You could go up, or you could go down, but you couldn't escape.

"The toughest match I've ever been involved in? I'd say so," said Jason Sterling, the second man to reach the top. "Put it this way: You've got 17 men in a caged ring. Everybody's trying to go up, because that's the only way to win, but only one man can go up at a time. Then you have the cage, which always causes trouble. But the worst part is that the cages get

THE TRIPLE DOME OF TERROR!



Jason Sterling, his head cut wide open, goes on the attack as Steve Casey looks for an opening (above). Casey was the first to reach the top of the cage (right), winning a trip to Las Vegas for some lucky fan.

smaller and even the bottom cage is smaller than a regular wrestling ring. It just spells trouble."

And excitement for the fans, especially since The Texas Roundup rewarded not only the wrestlers, but the spectators, too. Before the match began, each of the 17 wrestlers involved drew the name of a fan in the stands. Three cards, each representing a different prize, were suspended from a string in

the top cage. The first wrestler to reach the top won a trip to Las Vegas for his fan. Second and third prizes were a motorcycle and jewelry, respectively.

"Believe it or not," said John Tatum in an unusual moment of candor, "that made me try even harder. I usually don't give a crap about the fans, but there was somebody out there in that crowd rooting his butt off for me, and I

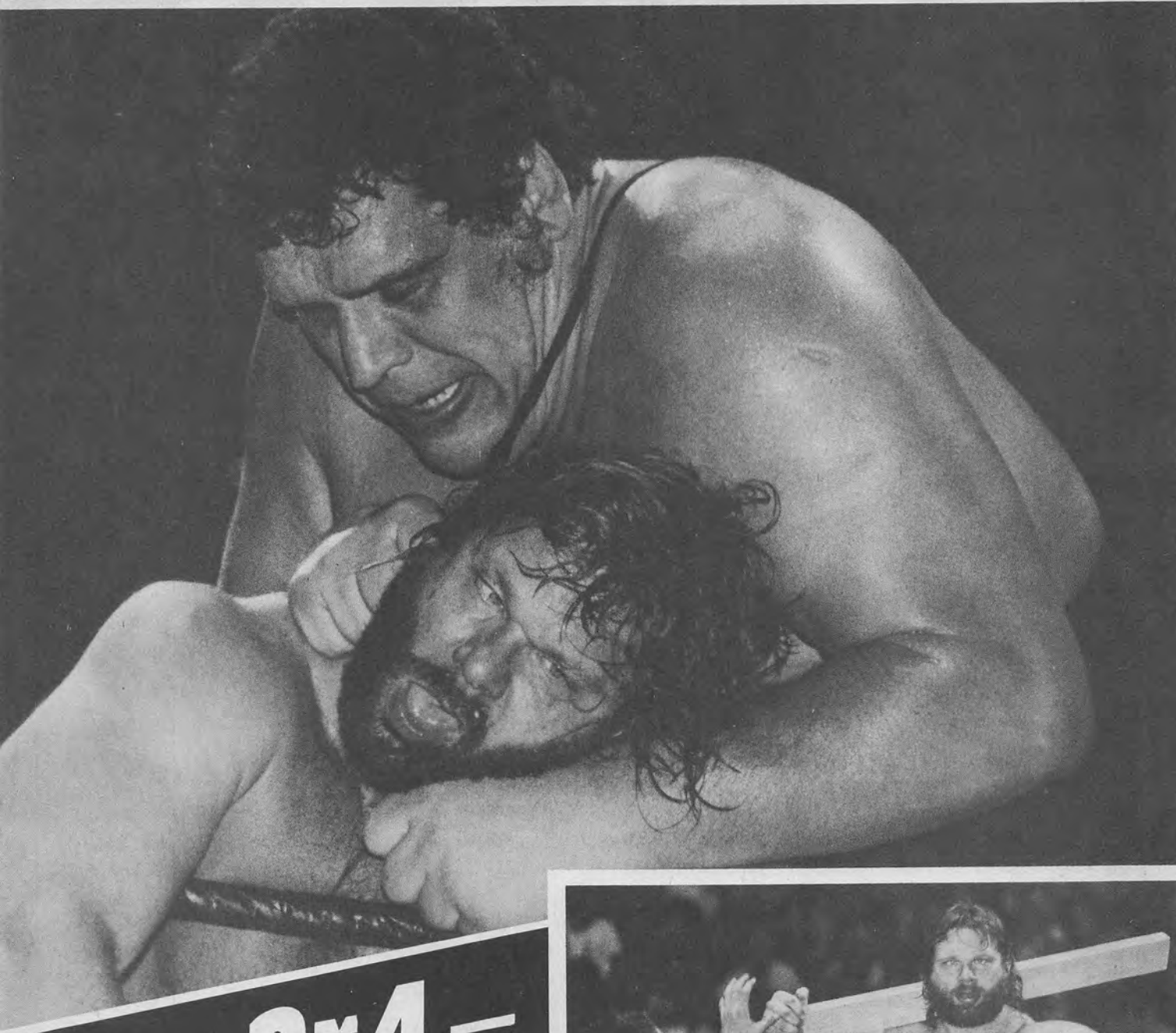


wanted to win a prize for him. I figured maybe he was a Vietnam vet or maybe some blonde broad. You'd better believe that if she won that trip to Las Vegas, I was going with her."

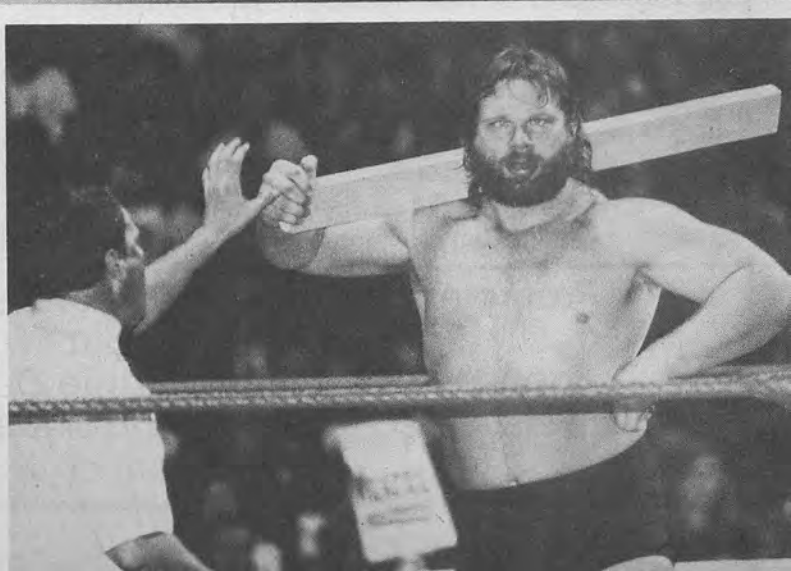
The Texas Roundup was conducted similarly to the WWF's Roy-
(Continued on page 56)

Promoters are constantly coming up with new ways to test wrestlers and excite fans. But World Class officials may have gone too far with the Triple Dome of Terror, wrestling's superstacked triplex of horror and violence that had even the bravest men crying, "Enough!"

ANDRE THE GIANT vs. HACKSAW DUGGAN



**2x4 =
MAYHEM!**



THE EYES OF the Giant have always been the window to his soul. Anyone who has regularly followed Andre's career can testify to that. Anyone who saw Andre square off against Hulk Hogan at WrestleMania III knows that behind the Giant's gruesome stare is the intense hatred of an angry competitor.

And while WrestleMania IV may have—temporarily, at least—put an end to the Andre-Hogan feud, it did nothing to quell the violence that rages beneath that intense stare. Indeed, Andre's eyes have focused on a new target.

That target: a wood-wielding dynamo named Jim Duggan.

Packing a wallop as sturdy as the 2x4 he carries to the ring, the man they call "Hacksaw" has used his confrontation with Andre at WrestleMania IV to challenge the Giant to a series of grueling matches. Although such an undertaking exemplifies the highest level of mat valor, Duggan is not faring well in head-to-head competition with Andre.

Recent matches across the country have proven that Andre is hardly "over the hill." In fact, Duggan failed to beat him in three notable opportunities:

A recent match in Detroit saw Duggan lose by countout after being brutalized by the Giant outside the ring. Their rematch two weeks later at Hersheypark Arena in Hershey, Pennsylvania, had an even more convincing result: An-



Hacksaw Duggan kicks Andre the Giant in the leg (above); Andre retaliates with a slap against the ropes (below). Fans across the country are thrilling to the intense battles between these two men.



dre by pinfall. Five days later in Duluth, Minnesota, Hacksaw was again the battered loser by countout.

Fans around the country are startled by the brutality of Andre and the courage of Duggan. After a recent match in Milwaukee, another Andre victory that featured a fierce tug-of-war for Duggan's 2x4, spectators were amazed.

"Andre is ferocious!" said one ringside fan. "When he gets those big paws and that shoulder strap around Duggan's neck, I actually fear for Hacksaw's life! And then he'll throw him out of the ring and pound him against the ring post! Brutal!"

Could these results prove the old adage, *Those who live by the sword* (in this case, a 2x4) *die by the sword*? Perhaps not.

Indeed, Hacksaw may be losing his bouts with Andre, but when he reads his airline and hotel reservation schedule, he must feel confident. Because what he sees is a veritable geography class of wrestling outposts: match after match in arena after arena in state after state—week after week.

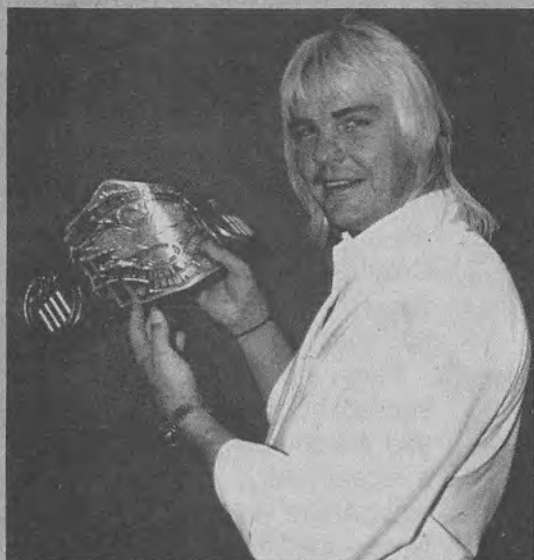
He sees more than just an exhaustive schedule, he sees a series of matches the likes of which Andre has not faced in many years. And while Andre—now back with manager Bobby "The

(Continued on page 58)

Some say Andre the Giant is over the hill. Some say Hacksaw Duggan is a street brawler completely devoid of true wrestling ability. But all agree that the raging feud between these men is bringing out the best in both grapplers. The only question is: How long can it remain at such a fevered pitch?

Four Horsemen Triple -

Barry Windham began a new era of infamy when he



joined The Four Horsemen. Soon thereafter, he emerged as the winner of a tournament to determine the new U.S. champion. James J. Dillon thinks the Horsemen have finally cornered the market on the NWA's titles, but his foes think otherwise

BARRY WINDHAM WINS U.S. TITLE TOURNEY



-Crown Champions!



Windham flies at The Midnight Rider (opposite page), who turned out to be The Italian Stallion. Nikita Koloff dropkicks Windham during the final (above left). Windham's task was made easier because in the semifinal, Nikita's left leg had been weakened by Tully Blanchard (above right). It was another example of how the Horsemen work together for a common goal.

JAMES J. DILLON was ecstatic. The veteran wrestling manager, not usually a spendthrift to those outside his select circle, was providing champagne, hors d'oeuvres, and cigars to the assembled media in the Sam Houston Coliseum's dressing room area. It's not often he hosts this kind of an open celebration.

"Members of the press, I'm glad you could be at this U.S. title tournament tonight," exalted the beaming Dillon. "Today, May 13, 1988, will go down in wrestling history. I am now about to unveil the NWA's triple-crown of champions! I'll bet Dusty Rhodes and his pals are green with envy!"

Emerging from the shower area were the always dapper Ric Flair, the NWA World champion, followed by World tag champs Arn Anderson

and Tully Blanchard.

"Now, may I introduce Barry Windham, the new U.S. champion! The Four Horsemen now dominate the NWA! Four Horsemen, four champions!"

A laughing Windham, with the U.S. belt strapped around his waist and dark sunglasses resting on his head, strolled into view. Instead of the polite applause accorded a new champion, his entrance was greeted with a somber silence.

"This belt is home to stay, folks," said Windham as he was congratulated by his Horsemen peers. "The big three titles have found their proper owners. Most of you said I was making a mistake when I joined the Horsemen." He held his new belt aloft. "Does *this* look like a mistake?"

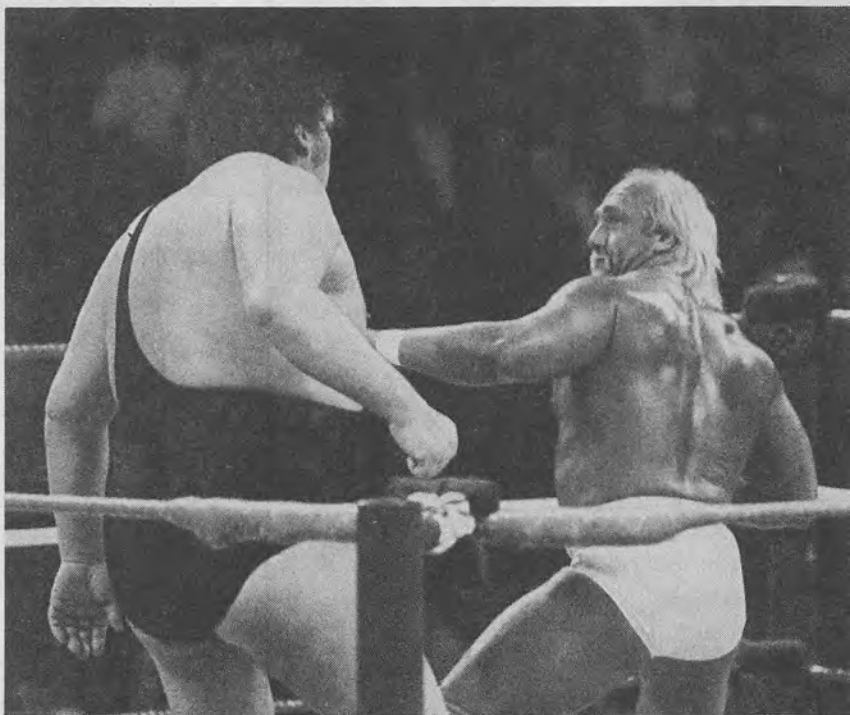
Indeed, The Four Horsemen had reached a zenith. It was a moment many fans believed could never happen. Windham, fresh from turning against Lex Luger, showed he was capable of sinking to any level to win a match. After years as a fan favorite, Windham proved he could be successful as a Horseman of a different color.

NWA President Jim Crockett had declared the U.S. title vacant after Dusty Rhodes' suspension on April 2. Seven wrestlers were entered into the tournament, with Tully Blanchard receiving the tournament's one available first-round bye through random draw.

Rhodes, whose suspension was lifted too late to enter the tournament, sat at ringside for The Mid-

(Continued on page 60)

The Bitter Truth: HULK HOGAN CAN'T COPE WITH BEING EX-CHAMPION!



Hulk Hogan just doesn't look the same without the WWF World title belt strapped around his waist (left). In his final fateful match as champion, "The Hulkster" slugs Andre the Giant (above).

Hulk Hogan may have been robbed of his championship belt, but he was not robbed of his fighting spirit. The man who graciously passed the torch to Randy Savage is no longer content to remain in the background. His full-time return is quickly approaching, and no one knows exactly what to expect when it happens!

WHEN SPEAKING OF an affair of the heart, it's often been said that a man doesn't know what he has until he loses it. Similarly, to take away the prized possessions of a man's career is to strip him of the basis for his pride.

It's the same thing for Hulk Hogan, even though he's a happily married man and a new father. One of the most popular and instantly recognizable athletes in the history of sports, Hogan is currently without the one possession that solidified his claim as a legitimate, modern-day idol: the World Wrestling Federation heavyweight championship.

To Hogan, four years with the title passed too quickly. Four months without it has seemed like an eternity. Although a man who

supposedly is his friend, Randy Savage, currently claims the championship, life just hasn't been the same for Hogan without a gold belt around his waist.

"All he talks about is getting his title back," said a WWF source.

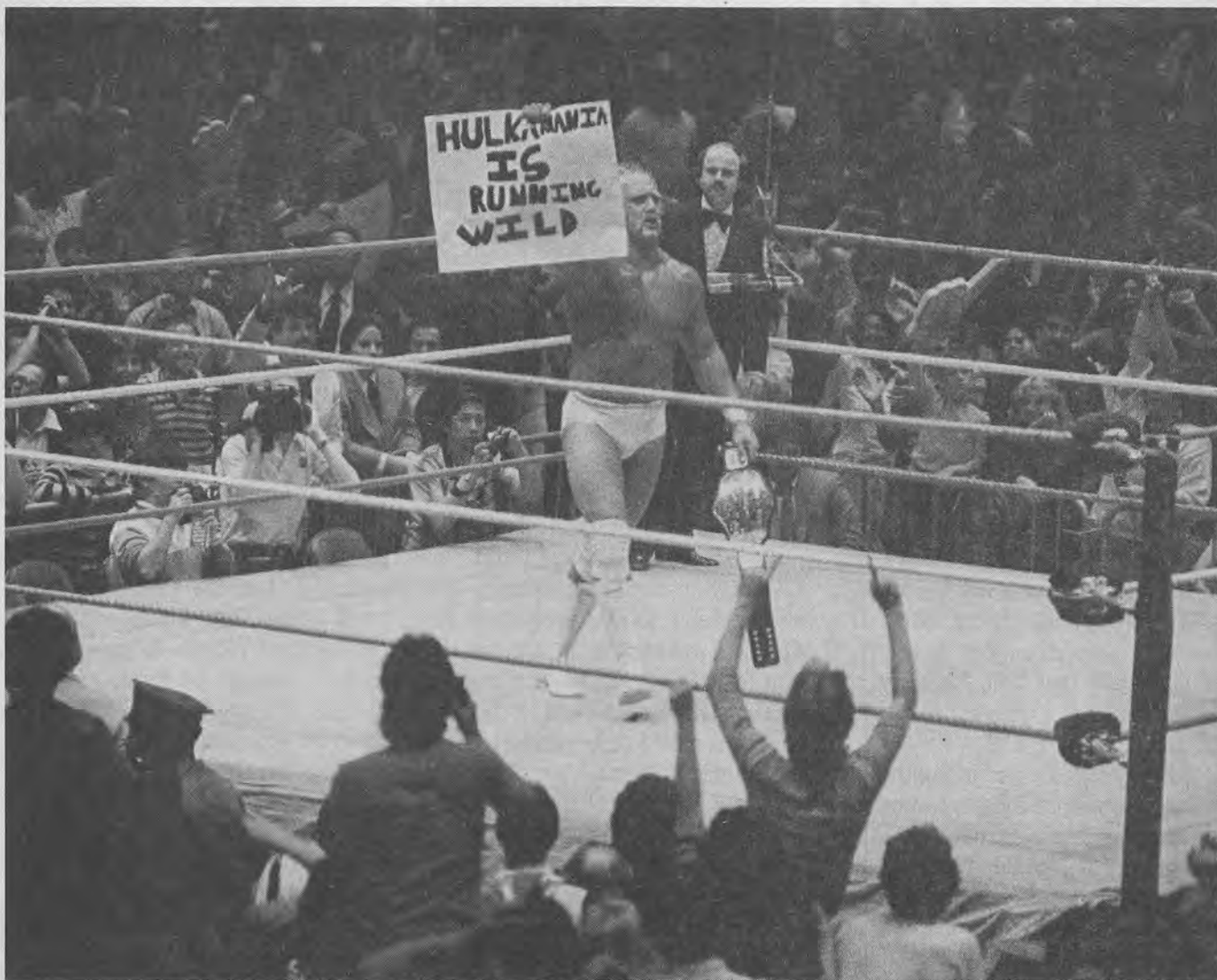
Those within the WWF expected Hogan to kick back his sizable feet and take a well-deserved rest following the WrestleMania IV title tournament, during which he battled to a double-disqualification with Andre the Giant. Hogan *did* take off a great deal of time after that point, as his wife, Linda, was pregnant with their first child. Like any prospective father and caring husband, Hogan turned his thoughts to his loved ones. On May 9, the Hogans became the proud parents of Brooke, their first

daughter.

Although he has curtailed his schedule, many people around him believe that Hogan can't wait to return to the ring on a full-time basis. "The Hulkster's" drive and determination could be seen at a recent match in New Haven, Connecticut, as the former champion annihilated the Russian Boris Zulkhov.

Hogan wasn't even supposed to make a ring appearance during that card. Reportedly, Hogan contacted WWF officials the day before the card and practically begged for a match. Apparently, any layoff is not sufficient for Hogan, at least not as long as he is known as a *former* champion.

"He said he just had to wrestle," said the WWF source after the



Hogan was an incredibly popular wrestler, and he maintains that following despite the loss of his belt. But he fears that if he doesn't regain the title soon, Hulkamania may start running on empty.



Hogan still enjoys greeting the fans (above), but that doesn't compare to the satisfaction he gets when he comes to the aid of his friends, like WWF World champion Randy Savage and Elizabeth (right).

New Haven card. "He said he'd wrestle anybody; he didn't care who it was. It was a really pleasant surprise for the fans. I think he may even begin to resume a full-time schedule sooner than was expected. But he still seems bitter about the way he lost his title."

Many former titleholders know what it is to lose a championship. Hogan may be suffering from a similar feeling of emptiness.

"It leaves a hole in you that nothing else but another championship can fill," said former WWF champion Pedro Morales to Senior Editor Bill Apter not long after he lost the WWF title to Stan Stasiak in December 1973, ending a title reign of nearly three years. "I have more time to be home with my family now, but it's not the same anymore. I look over at the trophy case and the belt is not there. All it does is make you want to go out and get your title back, baby. It's hard to describe, but I know I must regain that belt. It's very important to me. I guess it's a matter of pride."

Apparently, Hogan is feeling the same pangs that Morales once experienced. He also has the same problem that Morales had after the Puerto Rican star lost the belt: A fan favorite holds the title. Stasiak held the belt for only nine short days when Bruno Sammartino, the most popular wrestler of his era,

defeated him to begin his second lengthy title reign. Instantly, Morales' dream of regaining the belt ended. WWF officials rarely match two scientific stars for the title.

Although the World title is not the only belt Hogan could strive for, it is unlikely that the Intercontinental championship, currently held by The Honky Tonk Man, is enough of a prize for Hogan. It was through the World championship that Hogan became a multimedia celebrity, as well as one of the highest-paid athletes in sports. The WWF's number-two championship is probably a weak sister in the eyes of the Venice Beach giant.

Compounding the rumors of Hogan's discontent is the fact that Savage is proving to be a popular and capable champion. Fans have rallied behind Savage and his beautiful manager, Elizabeth, and are flocking to the arenas to see the new champion in action. Hogan has never been accused of lacking an ego. Could it be that Hogan is afraid of becoming lost in the shuffle?

"I wouldn't bet against it," said a former WWF wrestler who asked that his name be withheld. "There's always so much going on in wrestling. Hogan will never allow anyone to gain control of his territory. He'll be champion again before you know it. I'd bet he

can't stand what's going on right now. Even Savage may be fair game in his eyes. He feels he's been robbed, and he's still very angry."

"He does seem frustrated," the WWF source agreed. "But he's anxious to get going again so he can get his revenge on Ted DiBiase, the man who he thinks cost him his title back on February 5. He also isn't finished with Andre."

Many explanations have been offered for Hogan's restlessness, but most observers are in agreement about one thing: Hogan misses being WWF champion. Hopefully, Hogan is mature enough to vent his frustrations on men like Andre the Giant and DiBiase, the wrestlers who were truly responsible for his losing the title.

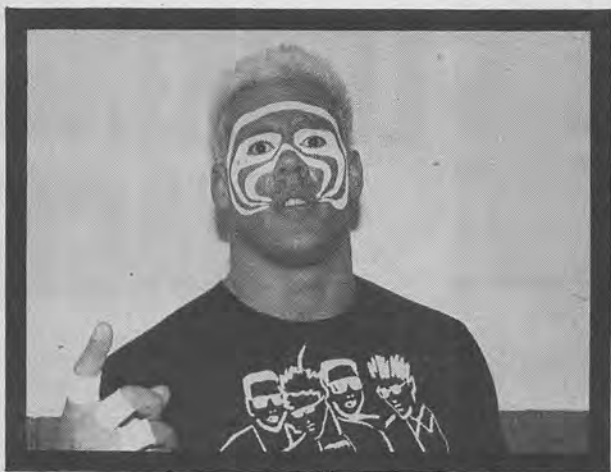
Sometimes, though, desperate situations yield desperate measures. A lust for power has led both Andre and Paul Orndorff to turn against Hogan in the past. Is Hogan capable of turning against Savage to regain the WWF World title? Or will Hogan be content to support Savage—for the time being, at least?

In his current state, Hogan continues to be one of the most feared men in wrestling. Those who stand in his way are likely to be struck down.

Title or not, some things never change. □

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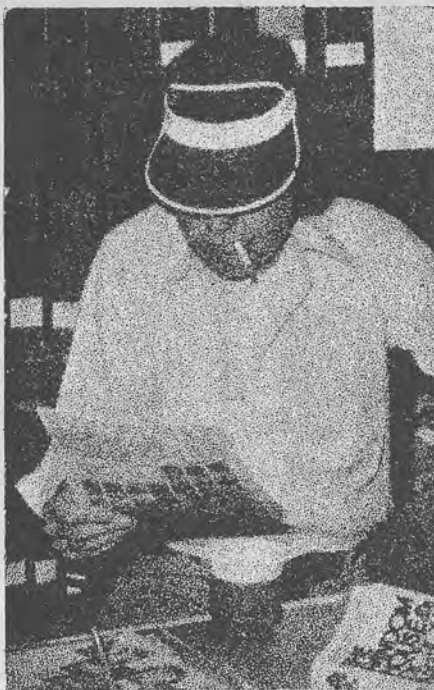
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MATT BROCK'S



LOOKING BACK

October 18, 1976 Randy Poffo vs. Sweet Daddy Siki

IT'S FUNNY HOW bad news brings back a flood of memories. Recently, I was informed that Fred Atkins, a legendary wrestler and referee, had passed away at the age of 77. Fred wrestled in more than 5,000 matches during his career, but when I heard of his passing it reminded me of the first time I saw Randy Poffo back in 1976.

Randy *Poffo*? He's a young man who's become kind of famous—known today as WWF World champion Randy Savage. It amazes me how many questions I get about Savage, not only from fans, but from other reporters who ought to be a *lot* more knowledgeable.

Back in 1973, Savage was known simply as Randy Poffo, the son of former great Angelo Poffo and brother of that immortal part-time poet, Lanny Poffo. He was raw and eager, but was having a hard time gaining a reputation as a pro grappler. Unbeknownst to many fans, he began to wrestle under a mask as The Spider late that year.

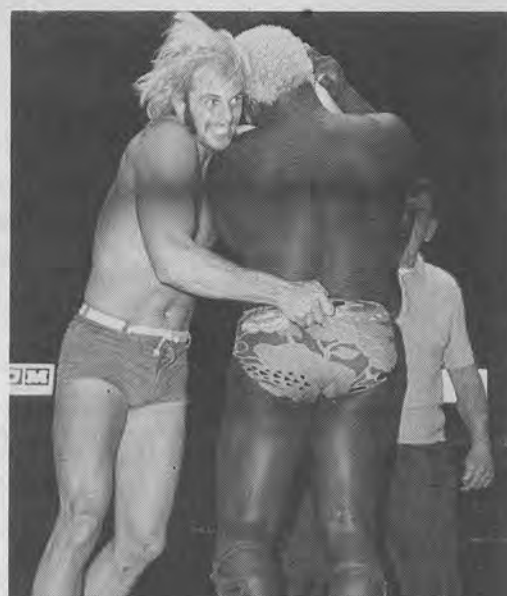
This particular Spider would crawl



Randy Savage (then Randy Poffo) headlocks Sweet Daddy Siki during a 1976 encounter that was witnessed by Matt Brock. In that match, Brock saw a lot of the qualities that eventually made Savage WWF World champion.

into arenas only on occasion, and fans and critics wondered why this mysterious but talented wrestler would come and go so much. As it turns out, Poffo was also playing minor-league baseball at the time. The Spider rou-

tine gave him a chance to wrestle during the off-season—his coaches couldn't tell who he was under the mask—and he could continue his career as a catcher during the spring and summer months. Pretty wily for such a



Savage, who weighed 215 pounds at the time, slams Siki (top left), grabs a hold of his tights (top right), and punches him (above). Although Siki was an experienced veteran, he had a lot of trouble with his younger opponent. The match ended when both men were disqualified for hitting the referee, Fred Atkins.

young kid, I thought; I remember telling other reporters how I thought Angelo may have masterminded the whole thing.

As time went on, the baseball career started to wane, and Poffo found he had more talent belting his wrestling opponents than he did hitting 90-mile-per-hour fastballs. In 1976, he began to wrestle fulltime, but this time he squashed The Spider, deciding that it was time to go back to his real name. A few months later, he took on Sweet Daddy Siki in Toronto.

There's no doubt that current fans of Randy Savage and his gorgeous manager Elizabeth would have a hard

time identifying Randy *Poffo*—a lean youngster with bleached-blond hair and cutoff-denim wrestling shorts—in a police lineup. Once he began to wrestle, though, the resemblance to Randy *Savage* was evident.

Even an old pro like the great Siki had trouble with this kid. From the opening bell, Poffo was all over his older opponent with a vengeance. Poffo's performance against Siki was, in a word, frightening. He wrestled like a world title was on the line. Referee Fred Atkins (you were wondering how he tied in to this, weren't you?) had all he could do to control this frenzy of violence.

There weren't any death-defying dives off the top rope or breathtaking elbowsmashes from Poffo this time out; he added those awesome maneuvers to his arsenal later in his career. Instead, fans were treated to a display of rulebreaking sadism that resembled a mugging more than a wrestling match. Siki countered with scientific moves for as long as his temper would let him, but Poffo's rules violations forced Siki's hand.

Atkins came close to disqualifying both men several times, but allowed the match to continue. That's what I liked about Fred. He knew the fans wanted to see a conclusive winner or loser during the matches, but if things got out of hand, he knew how to call it just right. Unfortunately, Poffo and Siki both hit Atkins when he tried to break up a brawl outside the ring, forcing Atkins to disqualify both of them. Poffo wrestled like a mad dog. When he changed his name, "Savage" was certainly an appropriate moniker.

Now, I know about Elizabeth and how Savage has changed into a "nice" guy, but I remember the guy who tried to kill Siki. He's also the guy who seriously injured Rick Steamboat back in 1986. Imagine if Hulk Hogan tried to regain his World title from *today's* Savage. I don't think Savage would be such a nice guy in that situation. If pressed, I'd bet he'd turn against Hogan in a minute.

Just like a spider destroying its prey. □

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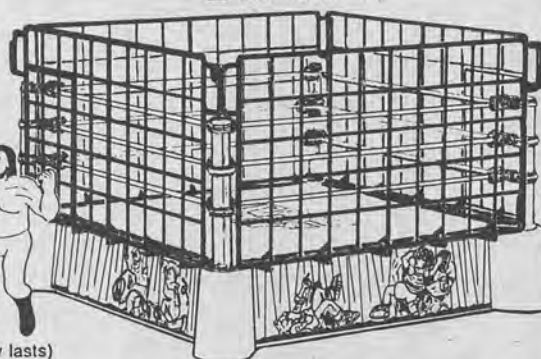
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YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 12)

any plans to start your own wrestling federation? If anyone can do it, you can."—Scott Carlson, Fullerton, CA

A: Bruno replied, "I appreciate the compliment, but I honestly don't have any plans to undertake such an ambitious project. I'm just happy spending time with my family and overseeing the several business dealings I've had. I'm involved with some wrestling phone lines, and that keeps me busy. Starting a federation, well, that's not so easy. But if I were to start a federation, I think I could do a good job re-



Paul Ellering says he would never be able to manage only one of The Road Warriors because The Legion of Doom is inseparable as a team.

cruiting talent from everywhere. That's what makes or breaks a fledgling federation. You need big name talent from throughout our great country."

Q: "My question concerns the disappearance of the NWA Mid-Atlantic title. What happened after Ronnie Garvin had to give it up after he and Barry Windham won the U.S. tag team title? Why wasn't there a tournament held to determine a new Mid-Atlantic champ?"—Alton Kelley Jr., Marion, NC

A: This question was answered by NWA official Sandy Scott. "There were already a sufficient number of titles in the NWA, so we decided to put the Mid-Atlantic belt up on the shelf for a while. There is a chance that we may hold a tournament sometime in the future to determine a new champion, but there are no such plans now. There's plenty of action in the NWA to keep the fans interested. Hardly anybody misses the Mid-Atlantic title."

Q: "My question is for Paul Ellering: If The Road Warriors were to split up and you could only manage one of them, which one would you



pick?"—Bobby Walt, Philadelphia
A: Ellering responded, "You mean hypothetically, of course. Right now, I can't foresee any situation when I'd be forced to choose between them. However, I don't want to sound like some wimpy politician or something, so I will answer your question. It's quite simple. The Legion of Doom consists of Hawk, Animal, and Paul Ellering. If Hawk and Animal ever opt to go after singles glory (which I think would be a mistake, personally), my association with them ends. It's a three-way split. However, I don't see this happening, so I wouldn't give it a second thought." ☐

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CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

(Continued from page 10)

In other bouts: The Southern Rockers defeated The Avalanche & Mike Golden ... Billy Two Eagles & Coconut Willie beat Art Cruz & Cowboy Lang ... Matt Borne defeated The Shogun by DQ ... Tom Zenk pinned C.W. Bergstrom ... The Assassin beat Buddy Rose by DQ ... Jimmy Jack Funk pinned Al Madril ... Billy Two Eagles & Art Barr pinned Steve Austin & Moondog Moretti.

Ft. Worth, TX (Correspondent—George Jackson): In a six-man match, Kerry and Kevin Von Erich and Michael Hayes took on Terry Taylor, Iceman Parsons, and Buddy Roberts. The match started in a regular wrestling ring, but things soon got out of control and they began fighting outside the ring and eventually ended up in the "Triple Dome of Terror"

Atlanta, GA (Correspondent—Steve Hendrix): Fresh off their Crockett Cup victory, Lex Luger and Sting took on the challenge of two members of The Four Horsemen, Ric Flair and Tully Blanchard. Sting and Luger totally dominated the action from the outset. The situation reversed quickly enough, however, with the Horsemen taking a strong offensive through double-teaming.

When Sting and Luger regained the advantage, they didn't give it up. As Luger and Flair battled it out, Sting clamped his famous scorpion leglock on Blanchard. The Horseman was ready to submit, but Barry Windham ran in and gave Sting a clothesline, leaving Sting virtually unconscious. A groggy Blanchard, with some help from Windham, covered Sting and got the three-count.



Michael Hayes wallops Buddy Roberts. The former Freebird partners opposed each other in a six-man tag match that eventually ended up in World Class' "Triple Dome of Terror."

cage that had been set up for several other matches on the card. The violence was so out of control, both teams ended up being disqualified.

In other bouts: Samoan Samu, Eric Embry, and Steve Casey were the three winners in a Texas Roundup match held in the "Triple Dome of Terror" cage ... Shaun Simpson beat John Tatum ... Eric Embry defeated Steve Casey by DQ.

In other bouts: The Road Warriors & Paul Ellering beat Barbarian, Warlord, & Paul Jones ... Arn Anderson defeated The Midnight Rider by DQ ... Jim Garvin beat Dick Murdoch ... The Fantastics and The Midnight Express were both counted out ... Ivan Koloff stomped Jimmy Valiant ... Ronnie Garvin whipped Tony Super ... The Lightning Express drew with Mike Rotundo & Rick Steiner.

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June 1982/COLOR PINUP: Nick Bockwinkel. **Adonis & Ventura**, Snuka, Patera, Flair.

August 1982/COLOR PINUP: Dino Bravo. **Steamboat & Rich**, Andre, Martel, Piper, Blassie.

October 1982/COLOR PINUP: Jerry Lawler. **Ric Flair**, Rhodes, Graham, Race, Funk Jr.

January 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ken Patera. **Rick Steamboat**, Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Putski. **Rhodes vs. Garvin**, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

April 1983/COLOR PINUP: Superstar Graham. **Mil Mascaras**, Valentine, Orndorf, Hart.

November 1983/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper. **Harley Race**, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR PINUP: Wahoo McDaniel. **Dusty Rhodes**, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

January 1984/COLOR PINUP: Harley Race. **Rick Martel**, Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Sunshine. **Greg Valentine**, Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

May 1984/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Butch Reed. **Hulk Hogan**, Road Warriors, Fabulous Ones, Flair, Rotundo.

June 1984/COLOR PINUP: Dick Slater. **Ted DiBiase**, Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Ellering. **Jimmy Valiant**, JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

August 1984/COLOR PINUP: Stan Hansen. **Jerry Lawler**, Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack. **Kerry Von Erich**, Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Sgt. Slaughter**, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana. **Road Warriors**, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A. **Rick Martel**, Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin. **Jimmy Snuka**, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

June 1985/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. **Dusty Rhodes**, Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

July 1985/COLOR PINUP: Sgt. Slaughter. **Hogan vs. Piper**, Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Magnum T.A.**, Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams. **Rick Steamboat**, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR PINUP: Randy Savage. **Ric Flair**, Slaughter, Steamboat. World Class scouting reports.

December 1985/COLOR PINUP: Jesse Ventura. **Great American Bash**, Von Erich, Orndorf, Williams & DiBiase.

January 1986/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Duggan. **Hulk Hogan**, T.A., Brody.

February 1986/COLOR PINUP: Nikita Koloff. **Mike Von Erich**, Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

April 1986/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair. **Wendi Richter**, Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

May 1986/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat. **Road Warriors**, Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich. **Hulk Hogan**, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

July 1986/COLOR PINUP: King Kong Bundy. **R & R Express**, Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

August 1986/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes. **Randy Savage**, Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

October 1986/COLOR PINUP: John Studd. **Nikita Koloff**, Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Lugar, Simpson.

November 1986/COLOR PINUP: Baby Doll. **British Bulldogs**, Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arm-Ole.

December 1986/COLOR PINUP: Great American Bash. **Great American Bash**, Midnight Rockers, Von Erich, Windham.

January 1987/COLOR PINUP: Fabulous Freebirds. **Roddy Piper**, Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

February 1987/COLOR PINUP: Savage & Elizabeth. **UWF Tournament**, T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorf.

April 1987/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger. **Dusty & Nikita**, DiBiase, DeBeers, Dingo, WWF Housecleaning.

May 1987/COLOR PINUP: Steve Williams. **Andre-Hogan**, UWF Tourney, Albano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry.

June 1987/COLOR PINUP: Hulk Hogan. **Magnum T.A.**, Can-Ams, Warriors, Freebirds, Hall.

July 1987/COLOR PINUP: Midnight Rockers. **Steamboat-Savage**, Luger, Duggan, Garvins, Sting.

August 1987/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Precious. **Hogan-Andre**, Warriors, Windham-Flair, Gordy, Bigelow.

October 1987/COLOR PINUP: Ted DiBiase. **Ric Flair**, Williams, Rockers, Hogan vs. Steamboat, NWA & WWF.

November 1987/COLOR PINUP: George Steele. **Nikita Koloff**, Warriors, Harts, Hogan, Windham.



JANUARY 1988

January 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Road Warriors. **Ted DiBiase**, Flair-Garvins, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.

February 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin. **Randy Savage**, Garvin-Flair, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

April 1988/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Lex Luger**, Flair-Garvin, Kerry, Survivor Series, Iron Sheik.

May 1988/COLOR PINUP: Sting. **Andre**, Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette, Owen Hart.

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July 1988/COLOR PINUP: Curt Hennig. **Hogan vs. Andre**, Express vs. Rockers, Beefcake, Perez, Rotundo-Sting.

August 1988/COLOR PINUP: Al Perez. **Savage & Hogan**, Gilbert-Lawler, Four Horsemen, Kerry Von Erich.



JUNE 1983

June 1983/COLOR PINUP: Cowboy Bob Orton. **Rick Martel**, Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

July 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Koloff. **Tommy Rich**, Patera, Von Erich, Snuka.

August 1983/COLOR PINUP: Larry Zbyszko. **Roddy Piper**, Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

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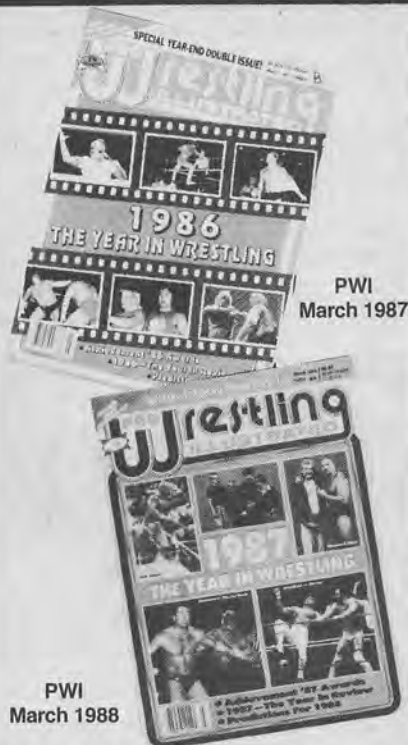
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WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from page 8)

Shortly after his title victory, Lawler brutalized his friend **Bill Dundee** with a foreign object. And recently, he took a chain away from **Dutch Mantel** and used it to knock him out and score a pinfall.

"You do what you have to do when you're World champion," Lawler said. "Everybody's gunning for the belt, everybody wants a piece of my hide, so I just have to turn up the intensity level a bit. People say that I'm different, but that's not true. I still love wrestling and I still love the fans. It's just that it takes a different style to defend the belt than it takes to win it.



Jerry Lawler pursues Bill Dundee. "The King" has been wrestling more brutally since he won the AWA World title.

"You know, it seems as if a lot of guys spend their entire careers trying to win a World title, and then when they finally get it they become complacent," Lawler continued. "But this is the time to protect what you've worked so hard for. I spent 18 years trying to become a world champion, and I like it. Now I want to keep it."

The incredible World Pacific tag team title reign of **Farmer Boy Ipo** and **Leroy Brown** has come to an end. Ipo and Brown, who held the belts since August 9, 1986, lost to **The Mighty Milo** and **Teu**, a.k.a. **Tidal Wave**, on May 17, 1988... Stampede International tag team champs **Bad Company** were put

out of commission for three weeks when **Brian Pillman**, one-half of the duo with **Bruce Hart**, injured his right bicep during a match against **The Cuban Assassin** and **Jerry Morrow**... **Kamala** is wrestling in the World Class area with **Gen. Skandor Akbar** as his manager.

Due to contractual problems, **Chris Adams** has left World Class and is wrestling with several independent federations... Although **Terry Gordy** is now wrestling with **Michael Hayes**, World Class officials have ruled that Gordy, **Ice-man Parsons**, and **Buddy Roberts** are still the six-man tag team champs. Parsons and Roberts will be allowed to find substitutes for Gordy... **Darryl Sammartino**, son of former WWF World champion **Bruno Sammartino**, finished eighth in the javelin throw at the NCAA Division I track and field championships in San Antonio, Texas. Darryl, who attends Slippery Rock University, was the first freshman in history to make the nationals in the javelin event.

What would it take to bring **Hulk Hogan** back to the WWF on a full-time basis? How about a chance to wrestle long-time nemesis **Bobby "The Brain" Heenan**? At a recent Madison Square Garden card, Heenan announced that he was coming out of retirement as a wrestler because he had scored two consecutive victories over **Koko B. Ware** in singles and tag team matches (both saw Heenan gain controversial wins). Heenan explained that he had signed an open contract, but was shocked and angered when WWF promoters signed him to wrestle **The Ultimate Warrior**. Although Heenan probably wants no part of Hogan either, the open contract would make it hard for him to weasel out of a date with "The Hulkster."



Hulk Hogan slams Bobby Heenan. When Hogan returns to full-time wrestling, one of his first opponents may be Heenan, who says he wants to get back in the ring.

Austin Idol and manager **Paul E. Dangerously** are at odds once again. Dangerously was hoping to manage Idol again and offered him \$25,000 for his contract, but Idol tore up the check. The following week, Idol had his picture taken with 25 children from the audience at Boutwell Auditorium in Birmingham, Alabama, prior to his match against **Eddie Gilbert**. Dangerously, of course, was against this match because he wanted Gilbert and Idol on the same side. But Dangerously's hopes were dashed when he offered Idol \$100,000 to join his stable. This time, Idol tore up the check and attacked Gilbert and Dangerously.

Fred Atkins, who wrestled in more than 5,000 pro matches all over the world, died on May 14 at the age of 77. Fred was Australian champion for 12 years and also held the British Empire title. He retired in the late 1960s to become a referee and also worked with the National Hockey League's Buffalo Sabres as a physical trainer.

And that's what's happening. See you at the matches! □

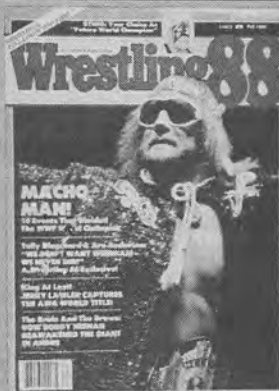
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JASON THE TERRIBLE

(Continued from page 31)

something very wrong with Jason, and this Zodiac seems to have the key to his mind."

Meanwhile, Pillman and Hart are working against these forces of evil. They have frequently teamed with Jason in six-man matches and made him an honorary member of Bad Company. Children are strangely attracted to Jason. "He's like a mindless sheep with no brains of his own, and he seems harmless," said Pillman. "But then these forces take over and there's nothing we can do about it."

"Remember, Jason really doesn't hate anyone," Pillman continued. "He just lashes out at the people that those who control him tell him to hate."

But wouldn't that put anyone who put their trust in Jason in a precarious position?

"You've got to be careful, yes," Pillman said, "but by the same token, the potential is there for him to do a lot more damage if we reject him. And the longer we work with him, and show him our trust, the better chance he have of tying into his mind, and ridding him of those dangerous influences."

When Jason first came to Calgary, it was his parents who had the most influence on him and he seemed to be a very gentle person. Not until he fell under the influence of Jude Rosenbloom and Zodiac did things start to happen. "Only a person with the power to communicate with Jason can make him evil," said Owen Hart, who has also teamed with Jason. "Jason's feud with DiSalvo comes naturally, but the strange way he acts when DiSalvo is around is eerie."

Some people think that Rosenbloom still exercises some control over Jason, an idea that makes some sense.



Smith assaults Jason outside the ring (above) as well as inside (below). Although the fans are now cheering for him, Jason is still a terribly tortured individual in search of a peaceful existence. Conceivably, he could snap and revert to his evil past.



"Rosenbloom was first, and he knew how to communicate with Jason," said Hart. "There's a possibility that he's trying to get him back and is communicating with him, but Jason is resisting. There's no doubt, though, that somebody, or something, is driving Jason even crazier than he was before."

But maybe *nobody* is trying to communicate with Jason the Terrible. Maybe Zodiac's claims of being able to communicate with Jason through mental telepathy were false. Perhaps Karachi Vice is just feeding these thoughts into Jason's mind so that he *thinks* he is under somebody else's control. Perhaps the plot to destroy Jason

the Terrible is simply a cruel mind game.

"That's a possibility, but I have a feeling we'll get the answer soon," said Bruce Hart. "One of these days, Zodiac is going to show up again. And when that happens, I hope Jason isn't around. That could be serious trouble. Jason is such an unstable person that almost *anything* can happen. You can't trust Jason, because there's nothing to trust. He acts in the most unpredictable ways. I wish I could do something for him."

Hart can't, however, because he has no control over Jason the Terrible.

Who does? □

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September 1979/Flair-McDaniel, Garvin, Ladd, Rhodes.
February 1980/Rhodes-Funk, Race, Spoiler, Brisco.
May 1980/Koloff-Anderson, Brody-Spoiler, Graham, Andre.
July 1980/Bruno-Graham, Samoans, Star Wars 1980.
October 1980/Hogan, Flair, Wrestling II, Super D.
January 1981/Morales-Fuji, Zbyszko, Thornton, Keirn.
June 1981/Morales-Khan, Lawler, Slater, Piper.
September 1981/Backlund-Mosca, Freebirds, Flair, Rich, Junkyard Dog.
October 1981/Rich-Race, Hogan-Hansen, Moondogs, Freebirds, Putski-Koloff.
November 1981/Rhodes-DiBiase, Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler.
December 1981/Muraco-Morales, Patera, Steele, Andre.
March 1982/Valentine, Brisco-Funk, Steele, Flair, Hayes.
April 1982/Spoiler, Idol-Hayes, Morales, Super D, Ladd.
May 1982/Rich-Flair, Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.
June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each other.
July 1982/Steamboat-Idol, Albano, Rhodes, Patera.
August 1982/Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater, Rhodes, Valentine, Backwinkel.
October 1982/Funk-Abdullah, Orton, Kabuki, Von Erich.
November 1982/Piper, Abdullah, Saito, Von Erich, Mascaras.
December 1982/Backlund-Rose, Rhodes-Flair, Albano, Humperdink.
January 1983/Rich, McDaniel-Valentine, Patera, Brisco, Backwinkel.
February 1983/Flair-Race, Morales-Rose, Patera, Bravo, Spoiler.
March 1983/Flair-Bass, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat, Patera.
April 1983/Backlund-Graham, Briscos, Rhodes, Hogan, Samoans.
May 1983/Muraco, Dillon, Sullivan, Reed, Brisco, Von Erich.
June 1983/Piper, Backwinkel-Patterson, Brody, Sullivan, Baba.
July 1983/Valiant-Humperdink, Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong.

October 1983/Martel-Valentine, Mulligan, Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.
November 1983/Andre-Mulligan, Kamala-Brody, Slater, Backlund.
December 1983/Windham-LeDuc, Santana, Sullivan, Garvin.
January 1984/Andre-Abdullah, Backwinkel, Gilbert, Windham, Flair, Mosca.
February 1984/Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen, Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.
March 1984/Starrcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.



APRIL 1984

April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.
May 1984/LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins, The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!
June 1984/Windham-Flair, Gilbert, Sawyer, Backwinkel, Tsuruta.
July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA tag tourney.
August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling.
September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.
October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card.
November 1984/Von Erich & Billy Jack, Andre, Fab Ones, Summer Wars!

December 1984/Rich-Gilbert, Martel, Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class.
January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, *Pro Wrestling USA*, Valentine.
February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.
March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.
April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.
May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.
June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A., Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.
July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.
August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.
September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Orndorff, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr.
October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter, Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors.
November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.
December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.
January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.
February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.
March 1986/Starrcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter.
April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Hansen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase.
May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.
June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.
July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Shepherders, Backwinkel, Bulldogs.
August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourney, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.
September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Lugar, Dundee, UWF tourney.
October 1986/Orndorff, Rude-Brody, Bash, Backwinkel, Gordy, Adams.

November 1986/Andersons-R&R Express, Machine, Gordy, Managers.
December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Muchnick Tourney.
January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones.
February 1987/Road Warriors, Savage, Windham & Lugar, 1987 Datebook.
March 1987/Kamala-Hogan, Starrcade 86, Atlas, Williams, Tatum.
April 1987/1986 in Pictures, Kevin Von Flair, Rich, Hennig-Backwinkel.
May 1987/Nikita-Flair, Bulldogs, Albano's career, Snuka-DeBeers, Taylor.
June 1987/Hogan-Andre, Hall, Parsons, Garvin, WWF title history.
July 1987/Midnight Express, Savage-Steamboat, Adams, NWA in Boston.
August 1987/Nord-Kevin, Armstrong-Flair, Hogan & Patera, Crockett Cup.
September 1987/Hogan, Akbar, Luger-Nikita, Summer Feuds, charity shows.
October 1987/Windham, Bigelow, Backwinkel, Western States tourney.
November 1987/Bash, Honky Tonk, Hart, Shepherders, Condrey.
December 1987/Grappling Ghouls, Hogan-Andre, Luger-Nikita, Boesch card.
January 1988/Honky Tonk, Garvin, T.A. career, Arcidi, Hogan.
February 1988/Rhodes, Strike Force, Rich-Adonis, Hyatt, 1988 datebook.
March 1988/Starrcade, Survivor Series, Simpson, Hennig, Zbyszko.
April 1988/1987 in Pictures, Tully & Arn, DiBiase, Kerry, Orton.
May 1988/Hawk-Flair, Andre-Hogan, Dangerously, Duggan, Mike George.
June 1988/Luger-Tully, DiBiase, Adams, NWA New York invasion.
July 1988/Savage wins WWF tourney, Rockers-Express, Hayes, Dusty-Rider.
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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 6)

were back to their old tricks in no time. I don't know about you, but I definitely think they're up to no good once again. I never trusted Michael Hayes and will not trust Terry Gordy either. I think we fans should just be a little more suspicious of "converted" rulebreakers.

NICK FISCHETTI
Denton, TX

BRODY BRUISED

Although I greatly appreciated your July "X-Ray" on Bruiser Brody, I feel I must disagree with its findings. Don't get me wrong. I consider myself one of Brody's biggest fans. I often see his matches on Southern Championship Wrestling on cable-TV, and he never fails to entertain. He is indeed one of the greats.

I disagree with your accolade-hurling panel only because Bruiser's level of competition is so low. Sure, he dominates every federation he enters and instills fear in the hearts of wrestlers everywhere, but Nord the Barbarian (a recent Windy City competitor) and Dory Funk Jr. (whom the Bruiser took on during a trip to Puer to Rico) are not championship-caliber competition.



Bruiser Brody should wrestle a higher level of competition, writes Chester Saltz.

Your panel was correct, however, to point out that Brody is a man above men. He wrestles where he wants, when he wants, and whomever he wants, without regard for federation boundaries and championship politicking. That's the spirit of mat competition. And that's why I love Brody.

Yet although I admire Brody's great gifts and his illustrious history (he *did* give Bruno Sammartino his best matches), I just wanted to write in and set the record straight: Brody represents awesome power, but I don't see him winning a world title. Not unless he wants it, that is.

CHESTER SALTZ
Greenburg, NY

T.A. TURMOIL

I have a message for Jim Crockett: BAN MAGNUM T.A. FROM RING-SIDE! He causes more trouble than Jim Cornette! Cornette, however, has a right to be there, since he is a manager.

But Magnum, with his craven interference, does not. I watched, shocked, as Magnum reached in and tripped Tully Blanchard during the finals of the Crockett Cup. He also slapped Tully during the match.



Magnum T.A. must stop interfering in his friends' matches, says Daren Weippert.

Don't get me wrong, I love Magnum T.A. The only thing is that he's spoiling all the fond memories everyone has of him with his terrible interference. His "friends" should stop him. Don't Dusty, Sting, and Luger believe in the same fair play that Magnum once upheld?

DAREN WEIPPERT

Toms River, NJ

(Continued on page 54)

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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 53)

HULK'S REVENGE

My letter is for the man who wrote the story on Hulk Hogan ("Rulebreaker '88") in the July issue of *The Wrestler*.

Tell me, sir, wouldn't you be angry if you were in his place? To have the title stolen from you in such a seditious manner is enough justification in my book.

Everyone saw Hogan raise his shoulder even before the two-count. Did the ref stop counting? No. Why? All I can think of is that he had a pocket full of DiBiase's \$100 bills.

Then Jack Tunney does nothing to correct the injustice, further forcing "The Hulkster" to take matters into his own powerful hands. Is the ref—in this case, a dishonest one—more important than the WWF officials?

Hulk Hogan is the man who made wrestling the popular sport it is today. The title that he wore so proudly and honorably was stripped away from him. Is it wrong that he fights back in the only way he knows how?

RAY POWERS
S. New Berlin, NY

NO COMPARISON

Now that Demolition has won the WWF tag team championship, I think



Smash saves Ax from Rick Martel's Boston crab. In reader Jim Klass' opinion, Demolition has become a much greater team than The Road Warriors.

it's about time that they get the respect they deserve. A lot of criticism has been aimed at Ax and Smash. They have been called "poor Road Warrior imitators." Well, let me tell you, Demolition has definitely carved out a name for themselves, and it has nothing to do with The Road Warriors. Ax and Smash stand on their own merit, and I bet they could even beat the Warriors if they had the chance.

Hawk and Animal make up the most overrated tag team in wrestling history. I see World tag team belts around the waists of Demolition, while The Road Warriors have no such thing to call their own. Sure, the Warriors look real big and bad beating up a bunch of nobodies on TV, but let's face it: They haven't won the big one.

Demolition are the World champs and the Roadies are nothing but mere contenders.

JIM KLASS
Somerset, PA

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TRIPLE DOME

(Continued from page 33)

al Rumble. It started with two men, Sterling and Mike George, in the bottom ring. Every two minutes, another wrestler entered the ring. Also, every two minutes the trap doors between the rings opened for 30 seconds, giving the wrestlers the opportunity to move upward. The first man to reach the top ring was the winner.



A bloody Terry Gordy cuts Buddy Roberts' hair (above); Roberts was saved by Angel of Death and Iceman Parsons. Michael Hayes waits for Gordy to enter the cage (below). After the match, they were friends again.

"It was brutal," said Shaun Simpson, who took the worst beating in the match. Both Shaun and his brother Steve were battling on the second level when Shaun made a break for the top cage. As he tried to go through the gate, Tatum and Victory grabbed him. Shaun fell and badly injured his knee, rendering him immobile. Meanwhile, Casey took advantage of the situation to go from the first level to the third level and win the match. Steve spent the rest of the match protecting Shaun, who would have to be carried out on a stretcher.

"If I left him there, he was helpless," said Steve. "You know, all you had to do was look in these guys' eyes to know that they were ready to kill anyone. There's a strange effect that a cage has on wrestlers, and three cages makes it even worse. It's the size of the cages, too. It's almost claustrophobic in that middle cage."

And more like a broom closet in the top cage, as Michael Hayes and Terry Gordy found out in a one-on-one bloodfest held in the Triple Dome of Terror prior to the Texas Roundup. The match began in the top cage; the first man out of the bottom cage, or able to pin his opponent, was declared a winner.

As expected, the match between

the two warring Freebirds was an exercise in violence. Hayes was knocked down to the second level and Gordy tried to ram him into the steel cage. Hayes and Gordy brawled on the second level before Hayes climbed down to the bottom level. By the time they reached the bottom cage, both men were bloody and exhausted.

At that point, Iceman Parsons, Buddy Roberts, and Angel of Death arrived on the scene. Roberts threw powder in Hayes' eyes and Gordy pulled out his Oriental spike and struck a blow to Hayes' head. A bloodied Hayes fell to the mat, where he was easily pinned by Gordy. Parsons, Angel, and Roberts then entered the cage and handed Gordy a pair of scissors. But Gordy decided not to cut Hayes' hair and got into a brief brawl with Angel.

Roberts attacked Gordy and Gordy knocked down Angel. Finally, Gordy knocked out Roberts, grabbed the scissors, and started cutting Buddy's hair. Angel and Iceman double-teamed Gordy, but the Simpson brothers ran out to save him. Then Hayes woke up and saw Gordy lying on the mat. Hayes was prepared to cut Gordy's hair, but the Simpsons explained to him what had happened.

"When I got up, I was in a daze," Hayes explained. "My head had been bashed into those cages so many times that I didn't know if I was in the top or the bottom—or even if I was still in Texas! I saw Terry lying there and my first instinct was, 'Go for him!' I had no idea what just happened. But that's just the kind of thing that's going to happen in a match like this. The Triple Dome of Terror is the most out-of-control thing I've ever been involved in."

"People in wrestling talk about banning a clawhold or the piledriver from time to time," Hayes observed. Hell, man, if you wanna ban something, ban *that*." □



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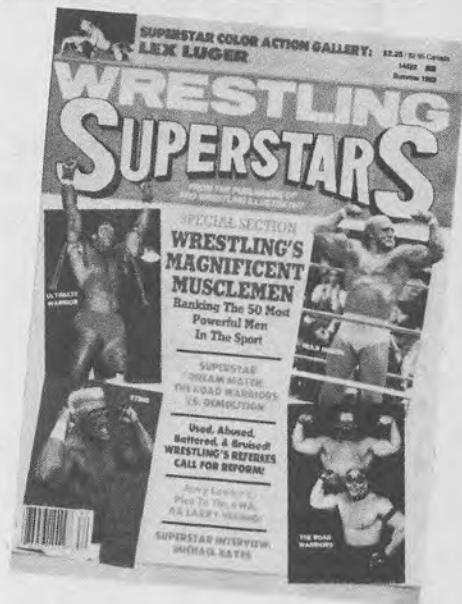
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(Continued from page 35)

Brain” Heenan—is wrestling better than he has since WrestleMania III, no one knows if he can sustain a coast-to-coast feud over several months.

Andre’s recent feuding experience is certainly not shoddy; going toe-to-toe with a vengeful Hulk Hogan is no easy matter. But after taking a close look at the Hogan-Andre feud, one is amazed to see that since their momentous WrestleMania III match, the two combatants met only two more times in singles action.

Those two bouts—the title change aired on NBC’s *The Main Event* on February 5, and the double-DQ at WrestleMania IV on March 27—do nothing but cloud the issue of Andre’s stamina. Three major singles bouts in a year! How will Andre handle the



Andre bearhugs Hacksaw (above). Duggan rams Andre’s head into a ringside table (below). Andre is wrestling better than he has in years, but Duggan is up to the challenge.



night-by-night challenge of the energetic Hacksaw?

Frank Valois, Andre’s first manager in the early ’70s, has an important viewpoint on Andre’s current form. “He’s definitely wrestling better than he has in two years,” Valois said, “but I wouldn’t call this the *renaissance*

of Andre. You may not remember, but he was such a great athlete in his day that the Washington Redskins *asked* him to try out. That’s a true measure of Andre’s abilities.

“Now, though,” Valois said, “he’s added a lot of bulk, abandoned the great flying bodypress

from his illustrious past, and lost a little of that legendary stamina. Who knows if he can survive a nationwide match series with an upstart like Duggan?"

Having seen the Giant in his prime, Valois is understandably skeptical. In the light of Andre's recent victories, however, his concern seems unsubstantiated.

And Duggan refuses to quit. Gary Kebbel, a Glens Falls, New York, native who has followed Duggan's career since the start, said that although his recent matches have been physically exhausting, "Jim has no intention of ending this feud before he proves something both to Andre and to his fans. Nothing, it seems, can break Duggan's spirit."

Whether Kebbel's optimism is the result of hometown loyalty or genuine ring insight remains to be seen. While Duggan gets pulverized both inside and outside the ring, he clings to one hope: wearing out the Giant.

But how long will it be before sheer frustration—or worse, physical injury—puts an end to the Andre-Hacksaw feud?

For Duggan, the memory of Andre's victory-stealing interference at WrestleMania IV would provide him with enough adrenaline to take on the Giant every night from now until Armageddon. For Andre, Duggan represents an annoyance to be eliminated, like a flea on a shaggy sheepdog.

Andre's resurgence comes from revitalized aggression and a desire for respect, a desire that is the driving force behind the mean staredowns, the powerful body-slams, and the increased mobility. Most observers now think that the more Andre wrestles, the better he becomes.

This time, Andre feels he will not be denied the feeling of complete conquest that eluded him against Hogan. This time, Andre is fighting back.

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BARRY WINDHAM

(Continued from page 37)

night Rider's matches, as he stated he would weeks earlier. The Rider, who was commonly believed to have been Rhodes prior to this day, wrestled Windham in a match that was an ugly testament to the blond grappler's newfound savagery. After mauling Rider for several minutes, Windham pinned and unmasked his foe, revealing him to be The Italian Stallion. The victory alone was not sufficient for Windham, as he and Dillon continued to pound away at Stallion, forcing Rhodes to run in from his seat to end the carnage.

Other first-round matches saw Nikita Koloff advance by defeating his uncle, Ivan Koloff. Lex Luger and Al Perez, two of the favored competitors in the tourney, were both eliminated when they wrestled to a violent double-disqualification.

The second round saw Windham get a bye because of the outcome of the Luger-Perez match. Blanchard, fresh off his first-round bye, took on Koloff in a match that saw Blanchard try to seriously injure his Russian opponent. Nikita's left leg was bashed with chairs, run against the ringpost, and thrown against the steel ring barrier. Many have speculated that Blanchard's attack on Koloff was an attempt to set up Windham for an easy third-round victory.

Although Blanchard lost, this was one night that the Horsemen would not be denied. Koloff had to have his left leg heavily taped before the tourney final. Windham took advan-

tage of his opponent's glaring weakness by going after the injured leg, trying to force a submission. Koloff would not give in to Windham's sadistic intentions, eventually forcing his foe outside the ring.

Koloff, wincing in pain, made his way back into the ring to escape the referee's 10-count. Windham followed, and Koloff attempted to slam



Windham continues his assault on Nikita's injured leg (top and above) and prepares to finish off the fallen Russian (left). J.J. Dillon says Windham's victory proves the Horsemen's greatness, but Nikita and his friends are not willing to concede anything.



him into the ring. As Nikita picked up Windham for the slam, Dillon, stationed at ringside, yanked Koloff's bad leg. Koloff crashed to the mat with Windham on top of him, and Dillon insured Windham's victory by holding Koloff's feet, preventing the Russian from kicking out.

As the referee's hand hit the mat for the third time, it signaled much more than the end of a match. It was, arguably, the greatest moment in the history of The Four Horsemen. Dillon's happiness could hardly be contained.

"A few months ago, you biased scribes said the legend of the Horsemen was fading," said Dillon, billowing cigar smoke. "You said without Lex Luger we'd never be the same. That's true. With Windham, we're not the same—we're *better*. What a great moment this is for the NWA!" All five men broke out in raucous laughter.

On the other side of the arena, Rhodes, Nikita, Sting, and Luger—former rulebreakers all—were discussing the situation.

"First, Windham shunned us," said Luger. "Now he's embarrassed us. There's no way I'm gonna let this go on for much longer."

"Let us take their titles one by one," grunted Koloff. "We prove to them that they can cheat, but it all for no good. We will get our revenge."

"Barry may be laughing now, but I'll get the last laugh on him," promised Rhodes. "Let Dillon think he's hot stuff—for now. But I guarantee the world that Lex, Sting, Nikita, and I will get our just desserts, daddy."

This may very well be the strongest foursome in Horseman history, but now there are more than titles on the line. With the personal pride of their foes at stake, they could be sealing their own doom.

With opposition like Dusty, Nikita, Sting, and Luger, the Horsemen's titles—particularly Windham's U.S. championship—may soon be snuffed out as easily as one of Dillon's cheap free cigars. □

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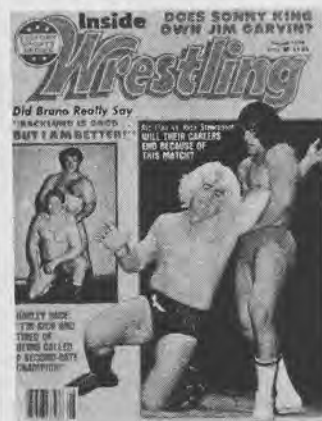
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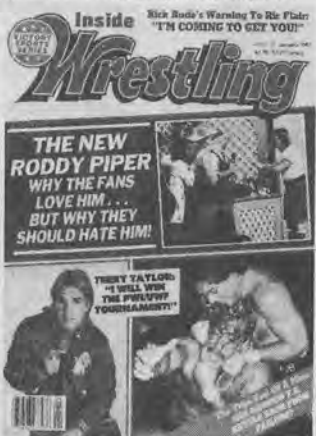
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Wrestler^{THE}



Lex Luger

TOP 10

- 1 RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
NWA World champion
- 2 RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
WWF World champion
- 3 JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
AWA World champion
- 4 STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
No. 1 contender: NWA title
- 5 TED DIBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
No. 2 contender: WWF title
- 6 LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
No. 3 contender: NWA title
- 7 KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
World Class champion
- 8 MIKE ROTUNDO**
245, Syracuse, NY
NWA TV & Florida champion
- 9 TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL
World Class Texas champion
- 10 CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
No. 1 contender: AWA World title

TAG TEAMS

- 1 TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON**
Combined weight: 484 pounds
NWA World tag team champions
- 2 THE ROAD WARRIORS**
Combined weight: 567 pounds
All-Japan Int'l. tag team champions
- 3 DEMOLITION**
Combined weight: 585 pounds
WWF World tag team champions
- 4 THE FANTASTICS**
Combined weight: 462 pounds
U.S. tag team champions
- 5 THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS**
Combined weight: 453 pounds
No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag team title
- 6 STING & LEX LUGER**
Combined weight: 528 pounds
No. 1 contenders: NWA tag team title
- 7 PAT TANAKA & PAUL DIAMOND**
Combined weight: 461 pounds
AWA World tag team champions
- 8 WARLORD & BARBARIAN**
Combined weight: 655 pounds
No. 2 contenders: NWA tag team title
- 9 THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**
Combined weight: 553 pounds
No. 1 contenders to AWA tag team title
- 10 JOHN TATUM & JACK VICTORY**
Combined weight: 466 pounds
WCCW Texas & Wild West tag team champions

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR

243, Minneapolis, MN

- 1—BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 2—STEVE WILLIAMS**
265, Norman, OK
- 3—STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
- 4—LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
- 5—DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 6—AL PEREZ**
238, Tampa, FL
- 7—NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 8—LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA
- 9—MIKE ROTUNDO**
245, Syracuse, NY
- 10—RICK STEINER**
248, Detroit, MI

WWF

World Champion:
RANDY SAVAGE

245, Sarasota, FL

- 1—THE HONKY TONK MAN**
255, Memphis, TN
- 2—TED DIBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
- 3—ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France
- 4—BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**
273, San Francisco, CA
- 5—HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 6—JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 7—RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 8—THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
280, Queens, NY
- 9—DON MURACO**
274, Sunset Beach, HI
- 10—ONE MAN GANG**
468, Chicago, IL

AWA

World Champion:
JERRY LAWLER

234, Memphis, TN

- 1—CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—GREG GAGNE**
220, Robbinsdale, MN
- 3—WAHOO McDANIEL**
280, Midland, TX
- 4—BILL DUNDEE**
214, Melbourne, AUS
- 5—EDDIE GILBERT**
222, Lexington, TN
- 6—JEFF JARRETT**
200, Hendersonville, TN
- 7—SOLDAT USTINOV**
265, Moscow, Russia
- 8—MAX PAIN**
350, Iowa City, IA
- 9—DUTCH MANTEL**
224, Oil Trough, TX
- 10—RICKY RICE**
230, Edina, MN

WORLD CLASS

World Class Champion:
KERRY VON ERICH

235, Denton, TX

- 1—TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL
- 2—ICEMAN PARSONS**
245, St. Louis, MO
- 3—THE GREAT SAMU**
261, Samoa
- 4—MICHAEL HAYES**
255, Marietta, GA
- 5—KEVIN VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
- 6—TERRY GORDY**
289, Chattanooga, TN
- 7—ERIC EMBRY**
225, Lexington, KY
- 8—STEVE CASEY**
232, Ft. Worth, TX
- 9—BUDDY ROBERTS**
247, Del City, OK
- 10—MISSING LINK**
273, parts unknown

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings.

MOST POPULAR

- 1 HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
- 2 STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
Last month: No. 2 Most Popular
- 3 RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
Last month: No. 3 Most Popular
- 4 LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular
- 5 JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
Last month: No. 9 Most Popular
- 6 HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
Last month: No. 6 Most Popular
- 7 DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
Last month: unrated
- 8 KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
Last month: No. 5 Most Popular
- 9 THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
280, Queens, NY
Last month: No. 8 Most Popular
- 10 MICHAEL HAYES**
255, Marietta, GA
Last month: No. 7 Most Popular

MOST HATED

- 1 BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
Last month: No. 8 Most Popular
- 2 TED DIBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated
- 3 ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated
- 4 RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
Last month: No. 3 Most Hated
- 5 THE HONKY TONK MAN**
255, Memphis, TN
Last month: No. 4 Most Hated
- 6 RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
Last month: No. 9 Most Hated
- 7 EDDIE GILBERT**
222, Lexington, TN
Last month: No. 5 Most Hated
- 8 AL PEREZ**
238, Tampa, FL
Last month: unrated
- 9 CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
Last month: No. 6 Most Hated
- 10 ICEMAN PARSONS**
245, St. Louis, MO
Last month: No. 10 Most Hated

For period ended June 2, 1988

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of those issues—in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only—and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a number-one rating, nine for a number-two ranking, and so on down to one point for a number-10 rating. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, allowing a maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

- 1—RIC FLAIR94 points
- 2—HULK HOGAN73 points
- 3—RANDY SAVAGE59 points
- 4—LEX LUGER51 points
- 5—CURT HENNIG41 points

TAG TEAMS

- 1—THE ROAD WARRIORS88 points
- 2—TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON ...84 points
- 3—BOBBY EATON & STAN LANE.....68 points
- 4—RICK MARTEL & TITO SANTANA48 points
- 5—THE HART FOUNDATION47 points

STAMPEDE

North American Champion:
MAKHAN SINGH

380, Saginaw, MI

- 1—CHRIS BENOIT**
218, Edmonton, Alberta
- 2—OWEN HART**
223, Calgary, Alberta
- 3—JASON THE TERRIBLE**
270, parts unknown
- 4—JOHNNY SMITH**
235, Manchester, England
- 5—STEVE DISALVO**
298, Boston, MA
- 6—JERRY MORROW**
235, Martinique
- 7—BRUCE HART**
211, Calgary, Alberta
- 8—CUBAN ASSASSIN**
236, Cuba
- 9—KERRY BROWN**
225, Kansas City, MO
- 10—STEVE BLACKMAN**
250, Pittsburgh, PA

CWA

CWA Champion:
BRICKHOUSE BROWN

225, Winter Haven, FL

- 1—MAX PAIN**
350, Iowa City, IA
- 2—CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
- 3—JEFF JARRETT**
200, Hendersonville, TN
- 4—ROBERT FULLER**
238, Dyresburg, TN
- 5—EDDIE GILBERT**
222, Lexington, TN
- 6—GARY YOUNG**
240, Houston, TX
- 7—SCOTT STEINER**
235, Detroit, MI
- 8—BILL DUNDEE**
214, Melbourne, AUS
- 9—JIMMY GOLDEN**
235, Montgomery, AL
- 10—BILLY TRAVIS**
218, Houston, TX

CONTINENTAL

Continental Champion:
TITLE VACANT

To be filled in upcoming tourney

- 1—LORD HUMONGOUS**
325, parts unknown
- 2—EDDIE GILBERT**
222, Lexington, TN
- 3—TOM PRITCHARD**
220, Houston, TX
- 4—TONY ANTHONY**
235, Bucksnorth, TN
- 5—AUSTIN IDOL**
240, Las Vegas, NV
- 6—MR. OLYMPIA**
242, parts unknown
- 7—SHANE DOUGLAS**
223, Pittsburgh, PA
- 8—ALAN MARTIN**
220, Houston, TX
- 9—DAN DAVIS**
238, Nashville, TN
- 10—DETROIT DEMOLITION**
310, Detroit, MI

USA

USA Champion:
MONGOLIAN STOMPER

239, Mongolia

- 1—THE BULLET**
234, parts unknown
- 2—WENDELL COOLEY**
220, Milton, FL
- 3—AUSTIN IDOL**
240, Las Vegas, NV
- 4—DOUG FURNAS**
265, Commerce, OK
- 5—TOMMY RICH**
248, Hendersonville, TN
- 6—HECTOR GUERRERO**
218, Mexico City, MEX
- 7—BILL DUNDEE**
214, Melbourne, AUS
- 8—BUDDY LANDELL**
236, Los Angeles, CA
- 9—DICK SLATER**
235, Tampa, FL
- 10—TERRY GORDY**
289, Chattanooga, TN

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 135 wrestlers in 12 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

They're number two! The WWF's Intercontinental title and the NWA's U.S. title don't carry the prestige of their respective federations' world championships, but the holders of these belts still demand great respect in the wrestling world. Unfortunately, our regular NWA and WWF ratings only provide the top contenders for the world titles. So, by popular demand, "Ratings Analysis" this month takes a look at the top five contenders for the I-C and U.S. belts.

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL TITLE

Intercontinental Champion:
THE HONKY TONK MAN

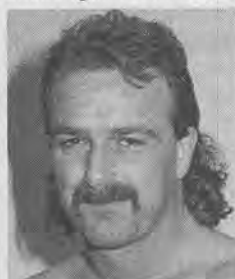
255, Memphis, TN

- 1—**BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**
273, San Francisco, CA
- 2—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 3—**JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 4—**BAM BAM BIGELOW**
368, Mt. Laurel, NJ
- 5—**BRET HART**
247, Calgary, Alberta



The Honky Tonk Man

I-C Analysis: The Honky Tonk Man recently celebrated his first anniversary as Intercontinental champion and, despite his apparent lack of wrestling ability, continues to hold off all challengers. His main competition is coming from Brutus Beefcake, who has defeated Honky Tonk on several occasions but never by pinfall. "The Barber" has been getting the bulk of the title shots lately, but that will soon drop off if he is unable to win the belt ...



Jake Roberts

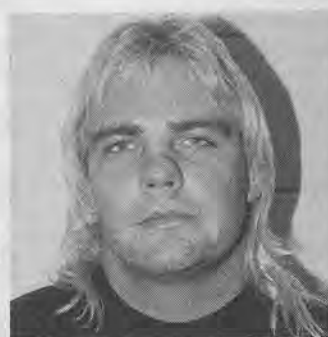
Hacksaw Duggan is involved in a wild feud with Andre the Giant. He hasn't had a shot at Honky Tonk recently, but should be next in line when Beefcake is through ... Jake "The Snake" Roberts is also involved in a feud with Rick Rude, but has made it clear that he wants an opportunity to win the I-C title. Roberts probably doesn't have enough talent to win the World title, but fits the mold of the I-C champion perfectly ... Bam Bam Bigelow has already failed to wrest the belt from Honky Tonk in several matches and will have to wait for another chance ... Bret Hart is in a state of flux right now but is a logical candidate for title shots since his former manager, Jimmy Hart, manages Honky Tonk.

U.S. TITLE

U.S. Champion:
BARRY WINDHAM

236, Sweetwater, TX

- 1—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 2—**LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
- 3—**STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
- 4—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 5—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX



Barry Windham

U.S. Analysis: U.S. champion Barry Windham might prove very tough to dethrone. In several matches against Ric Flair over the past two years, Windham has proven that he has the ability to be a world champion. The competition for the U.S. belt is much less fierce and Windham should hold his own ... Dusty Rhodes, a former U.S. champion, is hungry to regain the belt and teach his former friend a lesson. Rhodes may be older, but he has incredible inner strength ... Lex Luger, also a former U.S. champion, was the last person to team with Windham before he became a Horseman. But Luger has been paying more attention to the World title recently and might not be a serious threat to Windham ... Sting is also more interested in the World title, but will go after Windham wholeheartedly if Luger beats Flair first ... Nikita Koloff, another former U.S. champ, wrestled Windham in the finals of the U.S. title tournament. But Nikita has lost a lot of his competitive edge is no longer considered a major NWA power ... Tully Blanchard, the fourth former U.S. champion on this list, is unlikely to go after fellow Horseman Windham.

Around the U.S.A. This month, U.S.A. Wrestling takes center stage in our revolving ratings category. You might remember that back in mid-February, Continental Championship Wrestling split into two groups, Continental and U.S.A. One month later, however, Continental declared itself a distinct entity from the U.S.A. group. U.S.A., which runs shows in Tennessee, Kentucky, and parts of Ohio, West Virginia, and North Carolina, still features some outstanding wrestlers, such as former Continental standouts The Bullet, Wendell Cooley, Austin Idol, Doug Furnas, Bill Dundee, and others.

Mail call! We'd like to know what's on your mind. Sends your comments and suggestions to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o The Wrestler, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571. □

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- Ric Flair regains the NWA title from Harley Race in a bloody cage match at "Starrcade '83"
- The Road Warriors vs. The Fabulous Ones
- The Von Erichs vs. The Freebirds
- Junkyard Dog vs. The Missing Link
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- Magnum T.A. vs. Kamala
- Jimmy Valiant vs. Paul Jones
- Ole & Arn Anderson vs. Buzz Sawyer & Dick Slater
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